



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Terrence Ates
Public Information Officer
(903) 343 - 5451

Five New Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Smith County
Tyler, Texas (Wednesday evening, March 25, 2020)

Earlier today, NET Health announced two new positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Smith County.

This afternoon, five additional lab confirmed cases have also been confirmed in Smith County, in addition to the two new Gregg County COVID-19 cases that were announced earlier today.

The total confirmed number of COVID-19 cases in Gregg County is three (3) and twenty-one (21) in Smith County. A tabular view of the total number of confirmed cases within NET Health's 7-county coverage area for Disease Surveillance is listed below.

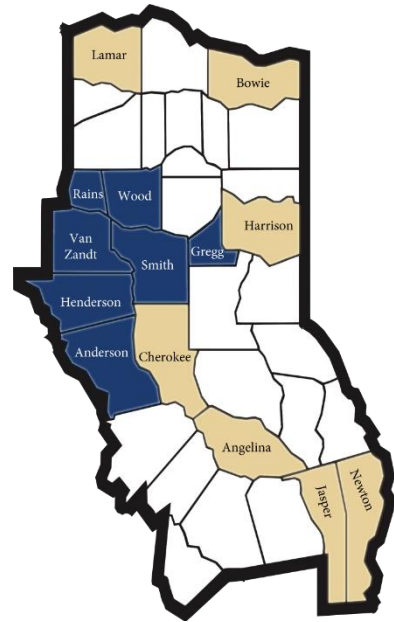
“Community spread means there is more than one possible source for COVID-19 to become acquired by any individual,” says George Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of NET Health. “The public has the responsibility, more than ever, to follow recommendations from health officials, such as physical distancing yourself from others as much as possible, while also remaining socially connected with family members and friends using technology.”

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) defines East Texas as the 35 counties depicted on the below map. NET Health performs surveillance of communicable diseases in seven of these counties: Smith, Gregg, Wood, Rains, Van Zandt, Anderson, & Henderson.

If you have been exposed to a sick traveler, have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or are experiencing fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, please contact your healthcare provider. The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases.

If you believe you have COVID-19 symptoms, please be sure to call before going to your doctor or emergency department to prevent any potential spread. More info about ways to slow disease transmission are maintained at <https://www.MyNETHealth.org/coronavirus>.

Dates of Confirmed Cases in 7 East Texas Counties			
	Gregg	Van Zandt	Smith
March 10	1		
March 13			3
March 14			1
March 17			1
March 18		1	
March 20			3
March 21			2
March 24			4
March 25	2		7
Totals	3	1	21



COVID-19 Related Deaths: 1 (Smith County)

Counties within northeast Texas that are outside of NET Health’s jurisdiction but have announced confirmed cases of COVID-19 are listed in the left columns.			
Rusk County	2	Bowie County	1
Cass County	1	Hopkins County	1
Morris County	1	Nacogdoches County	1
Upshur County	1	Angelina County	1

Residents are reminded to take the same measures that are recommended to prevent the spread of the flu and other respiratory viruses. Everyone in East Texas should remember to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing - Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you believe you have symptoms.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects using a cleaning items that contain bleach.
- Follow recommendations from your local health district officials.

About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)

NET Health serves a vital function through our Departments of Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control, Laboratory Services, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, WIC, and Community Outreach.

The mission of NET Health is to promote health, prevent illness and protect our community.

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