

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Substantial COVID-19 Increases in 5 East Texas Counties**

**Tyler, Texas (Wednesday, November 11, 2020)**

Over the past 7 days, the number of new cases of COVID-19 among persons who physically live within 5 of the counties covered by the NET Health Disease Surveillance Division is substantial.

“The NET Health 7-Day Rolling Rate of COVID-19 calculates the average number of all COVID-positive cases from the previous seven days, divides the total by the population of the county, then multiplies that answer by 100,000,” says George Roberts, NET Health CEO. The final number is the 7-Day Rolling Rate and we have collaborated with local physicians and epidemiologists to provide weekly updates to the “Community Spread Levels” infographic.

“The community needs to know that rate of COVID-19 infections are dramatically increasing in our area. We need everyone’s help to control the spread, especially with the upcoming holiday seasons,” continues Roberts. This infographic provides a visual weekly overview but caution is advised within any interpretation of the “COVID-19 Community Spread Levels” infographic.

All populations within each county should refer to NET Health’s COVID-19 website and our social media accounts that will feature subject matter experts who will further explain the intended uses of this risk assessment that will be updated each week.

“The infographic is intended only to provide situational awareness for organizations and entities,” says Russell Hopkins, the NET Health Director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness. “The COVID-19 Community Spread Levels infographic is not to serve as the only informational source for decision making processes related to the safety of a specific neighborhood, population, business, and/or geographic mix of East Texas residents.”

The “COVID-19 Community Spread Levels” infographic and associated references are located at <https://www.nethealthcovid19.org/blog/post/educate-your-communities-about-covid-19>

## COVID-19 Community Spread Levels

Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
7-Day Rolling Rates	0 to ≤10 Cases/100k	>10 to <35 Cases/100k	≥35 Cases/100k

This graphic is only intended to provide situational awareness for organizations and entities, not as the sole indicator for decision making in determining community spread or to the safety of a specific organization, entity, or geographic area.

**Minimal Community Spread:** Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large congregate setting.

**Moderate Community Spread:** Sustained transmission with confirmed exposure within congregate settings and potential for rapid increase in cases.

**Substantial Community Spread:** Large scale, uncontrolled community transmission, including congregate settings (e.g., schools, workplaces, nursing homes, day cares)



### Additional References: (Links below)

- COVID-19 Pediatric Symptom Severity Chart and Parental Guide
- COVID-19 Testing Decision Tree
- Does Your School's Infection Control Plan Stand Up to COVID-19?
- Decision Guide for School Nurses



## COVID-19 Community Spread Levels

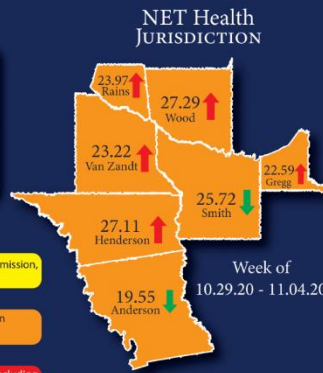
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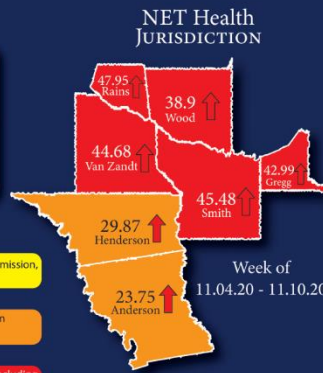
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