

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Distinctions Between Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases Tyler, Texas (Friday, August 14, 2020)

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has requested all local public health departments to report COVID-positive antigen results within our public communications of COVID-positive statistics. Positive antigen tests are considered a “Probable Case” of COVID-19 until the individual has been administered a Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR Test). If a person’s PCR laboratory result is positive, the person is a “Confirmed Case” of COVID-19.

“PCR testing and antigen testing can be given to an individual, as samples for both tests can be taken by using either an oral saliva test or through a nasal swab test,” says George Roberts, NET Health CEO. “Analysis of samples using antigen testing is less sensitive, meaning that a negative antigen test does not always imply that the individual does not have active COVID-19 infection.”

All COVID-19 statistics, whether “Confirmed” or “Probable”, within our 7-county region are the total number of unduplicated persons with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 test result. “Persons who have a positive antigen test and then receives a positive PCR test will only be counted once within NET Health’s daily statistical updates,” continues Mr. Roberts, “yet the list of cities, ages, and gender will only detail the statistics of Confirmed COVID-19 cases.”

As of today, there have been a total of 2,750 Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 and 337 Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Smith County. NET Health has also received confirmation of one new COVID-related deaths in Smith County, a 75-year-old male resident of Tyler who died this past Monday. “Our condolences are extended to the families of the 35 Smith County residents who have died from COVID-19,” says Roberts. The breakdown of Confirmed and Probable statistics within the categories of new cases, active cases, recovered cases, and deaths are available within the top section of each County’s COVID-19 dashboards developed by NET Health.

If you have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days, symptoms may appear 2 – 14 days after exposure. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include any of the following:

Fever or chills	Headache	Vomiting
Cough	Loss of Appetite	Nausea
Shortness of Breath	Sore Throat	Newly Acquired Loss of
Difficulty Breathing	Nasal Congestions	Taste or Smell
Fatigue	Runny Nose	
Muscle or Body Aches	Diarrhea	

Smith County residents without health insurance can discuss their risk of exposure to COVID-19 by contacting the NET Health Center for Healthy Living at (903) 617 – 6404.

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 information about free COVID-19 testing locations and evidence-based strategies to control the spread of COVID-19 are listed at <https://www.NETHealthCOVID19.org>.

(attachment: COVID-19 Dashboards for the counties of Smith, Gregg, Wood, Rains, Van Zandt, Henderson, and Anderson)