

COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 9, 2020



1

If a person tests positive twice, is that counting as two positive people, when it is really one positive person?

Positives that are reported are all new cases from different individuals. Health officials are reporting individuals who have had Covid-19, not the total number of tests received with positive results. This is true for every positive case that has been reported since March. Positive numbers are not inflated if a person tests positive more than once, even by different entities.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

2

Why are positives sometimes more than the total tested?

Positive results are not always reported the day of testing. A positive result may be returned days later, depending on the testing entity. For this reason, positive results from previous days may sometimes outnumber total tests taken.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

3

How do you get stats of recovery when people who tested positive are not retesting ?

The CCNCPHD advises based on CDC recommendations, which does not require re-testing for a negative result to end isolation. When an individual is considered recovered depends on different factors for different situations. Find the complete CDC guidelines here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

The CCNCPHD utilizes a math formula to calculate recoveries in addition to calling Nueces County residents who have tested positive for Covid-19.

ANSWERED 9/9/20

4

Is it required to wear a mask?

Masks are now required in public places by order of Texas Governor Greg Abbott (GA-29) and Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales. This may change depending on the spread of the virus, however at this time, due to exponential growth of Covid-19 in many parts of Texas and in Nueces

County, masks are mandatory in public settings. For more information, you can view these orders with links below:

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-establishes-statewide-face-covering-requirement-issues-proclamation-to-limit-gatherings>

<https://www.nuecesco.com/Home/Components/News/News/1249/1169>

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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What is a Probable Positive?

A confirmed positive is laboratory confirmed, while a probable positive must meet certain criteria in accordance with The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and adopted by the Texas Department of State Health Services. A full definition of criteria can be found here: <https://www.ctctexas.com/sites/default/files/TDSHS-Case-Definitions.pdf>

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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What are the symptoms of this virus?

CDC revised the list of symptoms in late June 2020. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have Covid-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

ANSWERED 7/17/20

Find more information from CDC here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

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How can I prevent catching and spreading Covid-19?

The best defense is staying at home as much as possible and wearing a mask when out in public. Increase frequency of handwashing, clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces. Practice social distancing and avoid groups of 10 people or more. The CDC provides more guidance here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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What do I do if I feel sick?

If you feel sick, and you suspect you have Covid-19, notify your employer, take time off of work, isolate and try to get tested. You may call the Corpus Christi - Nueces County Public Health District at (361) 826-7200 to try and schedule an appointment, or reference other testing entities in the area by visiting <https://www.cctexas.com/coronavirus>. Make sure you call ahead of time before visiting any testing facility and notify them that you may have the coronavirus.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

9

What is the testing process?

The Corpus Christi - Nueces County Public Health District may have a different process than other testing entities. The Corpus Christi - Nueces County Public Health District has provided an overview of testing processes at <https://www.cctexas.com/detail/ccncphd-covid-19-testing-process>

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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What are risks for getting the virus?

Everyone is at risk for getting Covid-19 if they are exposed to the virus. Most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home. Some people can become severely ill, which means that they may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die. We learn more about Covid-19 every day, and as more information becomes available, CDC and public health officials will continue to update and share information about risk for severe illness.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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Who is considered vulnerable to developing more severe symptoms?

The CDC's website describes several groups that are at higher risk for developing more severe symptoms or groups that should take extra precautions. People at increased risk for severe illness includes older adults and people with underlying medical conditions. View the full documentation at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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What do I do if I test positive?

Follow the advice of your medical care providers and public health professionals. The Corpus Christi - Nueces County Public Health District has provided some guidance at <https://www.cctexas.com/testingpositive>.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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How to recover from Covid-19 at home?

Set up a separate room in the household for someone who is sick and clean the room regularly. Disposable face-masks may be useful for someone sick with Covid-19. Follow the advice of public health professionals. Recommendations for Households Living in Close Quarters can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/living-in-close-quarters.html>. The Corpus Christi - Nueces County Public Health District has provided some additional guidance at <https://www.cctexas.com/testingpositive>.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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How is the virus treated?

The vast majority (at least 80%) of people with COVID-19 recover without the need for hospitalization. The treatment protocol for Covid-19 involves fluid intake, isolation and observation. About 10-20% of cases require hospitalization. These patients receive treatment for complications of Covid-19 including severe respiratory distress or pneumonia. In June, the Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health District announced the release of a Covid-19 informational video by Dr. Srikanth Ramachandrani, Local Health Authority on his recommended treatment options, which can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/covid19-treatment>.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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Where did this virus come from and how is it spread?

Covid-19 closely resembles coronaviruses found in bats but not humans. Scientists believe the bat virus had a change in its genes that permitted it to spread to humans, possibly via an intermediate carrier in an animal market in Wuhan, China. The virus can be transmitted from person to person via droplets that come from the nose or mouth. These droplets can directly enter the nose, mouth or eyes of a person standing close by, or they can be indirectly transmitted by hands and inanimate objects.

ANSWERED 7/17/20

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What is a Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses describe a large family of viruses that usually cause mild respiratory illness. But there are some strains of coronaviruses that have caused more severe illness, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). Novel Coronavirus 2019 (SARS-CoV-2) is a new coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. This disease caused by this virus is now commonly referred to as Covid-19. For simplicity sake, many governments refer to both the virus and the disease as Covid-19.

ANSWERED 7/17/20