

NEWS RELEASE

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Required change in test reporting brings current total cases of COVID-19 in Taylor County to 206

ABILENE, Texas – The Texas Department of State Health Services has notified the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District of two changes needing to be made in its reporting of COVID-19 positive test results in Taylor County, which will bring the known number of total COVID-19 cases to two hundred six.

The changes in reporting include the discontinuation of reporting positive test results generated from serologic (antibody) tests, and the discontinuation of reporting positive test results associated with the Middleton and French Robertson Prisons Units, as the State has directed those cases should be accounted for in Jones County, not Taylor County.

As of May 6, 2020, ninety-four positive COVID-19 test results reported by the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District are those of inmates at the Middleton and French Robertson Prison Units. An additional eighty-two positive COVID-19 test results reported by the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District were the result of serologic (antibody) testing. Eliminating those test results from the Health District's reporting for Taylor County brings the total number of COVID-19 cases for the county to two hundred six.

Due to this required change in reporting, demographic information for positive COVID-19 patients will not be available until Health District staff can recalculate data, accounting for the change in distribution and classification of cases.

The Abilene Taylor County Public Health District strongly encourages the public to continue the practice of social distancing, proper sanitization, and wearing of masks in public to minimize the spread of COVID-19, despite the decrease in COVID-19 cases for Taylor County. Working to slow the spread of COVID-19 will continue to ensure needed resources are available for all of our region's most vulnerable and medically fragile community members.

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