



## Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department

1304 S. 25th Street • Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Tel: (956) 383-6221 • Fax: (956) 383-8864

Iván Meléndez, M.D., M.B.A.  
Health Authority / Chief Physician

Eduardo Olivarez  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

### **Once again, Hidalgo County scales back emergency operations level as pandemic eases locally**

**EDINBURG** – As the number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths continue to fall, Hidalgo County officials have decided to decrease its emergency operational status to a Level 3, down from a Level 2, the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department announced Friday.

A Level 3 status indicates increased readiness in its operations; a Level 2 saw Hidalgo County at an escalated operations status. The last time Hidalgo County was at a Level 3 status was March 5, 2020, as county officials were preparing for the arrival of COVID like much of the rest of the country.

When the first person in Hidalgo County was diagnosed with COVID-19 on March 21, 2020, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez ordered the county to move to a Level 1 status or maximum status.

Fifteen months later, Hidalgo County scaled back to a Level 2 Escalated Operations on May 23, 2020. Level 5 is normal operations.

Along with scaling back the operational readiness level, the Health Department is redesigning its twice weekly news release to more closely resemble how state health officials releases its information.

The redesign may result in a short-term discrepancy between old and new numbers solely because of a lag in county and state health numbers.



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**One death related to COVID-19 reported in Hidalgo County along with 100 newly reported positive cases. The deceased individual was not vaccinated.**

**Reporting Period: November 4, 2022 – November 7, 2022**

<b>Total COVID-19 Positive Cases for Reporting Period</b>	<b>100</b>
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<b>Confirmed</b>	<b>45</b>
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<b>Probable</b>	<b>55</b>
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### COVID-19 Positive Cases by Age Group for Reporting Period

<b>0-19</b>	<b>32</b>
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<b>20s</b>	<b>26</b>
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<b>30s</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>40s</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>50s</b>	<b>12</b>
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<b>60s</b>	<b>5</b>
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<b>70+</b>	<b>7</b>
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<b>Total COVID-19 Related Fatalities for Reporting Period</b>	<b>1</b>
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	<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>City</b>
<b>1</b>	50s	Male	Alton

<b>Current Total COVID-19 Patients Hospitalized in Hidalgo County</b>	<b>22</b>
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<b>Adult</b>	<b>20</b>
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<b>Pediatric</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>Current Total COVID-19 Patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Hidalgo County</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>Adult</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>Pediatric</b>	<b>0</b>
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*\*Due to differences in data processing, timing, and methodology, there may be discrepancies between the information presented in this report and the Texas DSHS dashboard.*



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<b>Yearly Summary</b>				
	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2021 <sup>1</sup>	2022 <sup>2</sup>	Cumulative Total <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>52,107</b>	<b>72,092</b>	<b>121,931</b>	<b>253,362</b>
Confirmed	36,231	36,081	78,026	166,156
Probable	15,054	33,729	43,905	87,206
<b>Total Fatalities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>4,033</b>

Hidalgo County uses the case status definition provided by the Texas Department of State Health Service's 2022 Epi Case Criteria Guide revised May 2022.

1. *Confirmed: A person who has tested positive through a molecular test (PCR) that looks for the virus's genetic material.*
2. *Probable: A person who has either tested positive through an antigen test or has a combination of symptoms and a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 without a more likely diagnosis.*
3. *Fatality: Deaths for which COVID-19 is listed as a direct cause of death on the death certificate. A medical certifier, usually a doctor, determines the cause(s) of death. Deaths of people who had COVID-19 but died of an unrelated cause are not included.*

For more information of case status definition for COVID-19, please refer to:

<https://dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/investigation/epi-case-criteria-guide/2022-Epi-Case-Criteria-Guide.pdf>

According to the CDC, you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines if you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccination status, please refer to:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

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<sup>1</sup> Yearly case summary values for 2020 and 2021 were retrieved from internal Hidalgo County records. For this reason, numbers may not match DSHS dashboard and will not match when added across.

<sup>2</sup> Summary values for 2022 and cumulative total are retrieved from the Texas National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) and may not match the DSHS dashboard due to differences in data processing, timing, and methodology.

<sup>3</sup> Fatalities are retrieved from Hidalgo County records, including medical records reviews, to confirm COVID-19 related fatalities. For this reason, numbers may not match DSHS dashboard.