

BASTROP COUNTY HEALTH AUTHORITY RECEIVES COVID-19 FATALITY UPDATE FROM DSHS

July 30, 2020

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) notified the Bastrop County Health Authority today that the reporting of COVID-19 fatalities on the DSHS Dashboard was revised to reflect deaths as reported on the individual's death certificate. They report that this method allows fatalities to be counted faster and more accurately than before. Due to this change, the total fatality rate in counties across Texas experienced fluctuations when compared to the previously reported numbers.

"This news is a solemn reminder of how serious this pandemic is in Bastrop County," said Judge Paul Pape. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of these who have succumbed to this virus."

In Bastrop County five additional local fatalities (four male and one female) were recorded due to this change in reporting. Three of these individuals resided in the Cedar Creek area, one in the Bastrop area, one in Red Rock. Three of these individuals were in the 60-69 age range, one in the 70-79 age range and one in the 80+ age range.

Testing continues to be vital to understanding and controlling the spread of COVID-19. "Testing allows you to know if you are sick so you can stay home to protect your friends, loved ones and community. We need to identify who is sick in our community, to decrease spread of COVID-19 and allow for the safe reopening of our schools and economy," said Dr. Desmar Walkes, Bastrop County Health Authority. She encourages anyone who thinks they might need one, to receive a test. Free testing is available without a doctor's referral in Bastrop County to those who qualify, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, or are a member of a designated "at-risk" population. Residents can make an appointments in one of two ways to receive a free COVID-19 test:

1. Online at bastropcountycovid19.org, where an email address is required for each person receiving a test, or
2. By phone, by calling 512-972-5560, where you will need to call back for test results

For more information and FAQ, please visit: <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus>

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