

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/22/2020

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

# We Are Proud To Be Chinese American

It was such an honor to join Professor Anne Chao on the Chinese American Antique Road Show at the Museum of Chinese In America in New York.

Dr. Chao is the founder of The Chao Center For Asian Studies at Rice University that was created with a \$15 million endowment from the Ting Tsing and Wei Fong Chao Foundation, establishing the Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA) in 2008.

MOCA is a national cultural institution dedicated to telling the untold stories in the making of America through the lens of the Chinese immigrant experience. The beautiful facilities were designed by Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Maya Lin.

We are so glad to tell the stories of Chinese Americans in Houston, Texas.

Ms. Linda Wu and her family were early pioneers in Texas. Her father, Albert Gee, was our community leader for so many years. He was a restaurant owner who started Chinese and Asian food in Houston, Texas. He was Chinatown's unofficial mayor. Today, Linda still continues her sponsorship of the Houston Miss Chinatown Beauty pageant. It has become one of most important events in our city.

In a TV show interview, I told our host Dr. Chao that our saying that we as Chinese Americans are mainstream is because of our many contributions to this great land and our important part in building a better society.

Almost one hundred years ago, Chinese labor came to America to help build the railroad. During WWII, many Chinese Americans joined the war to fight against



Japanese aggression. We are so very proud of our contributions in many areas.

Today our nation is still facing the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic that is still attacking our community. Many Chinese Americans have lost their businesses while many politicians still use China as

an issue to attack China. We are very regretful that all these developments are very disgusting to our society.

We want to let the general public know that we are here as citizens of this great nation. We are fighting for equal rights in this political fight.



Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Chairman of International District Houston Texas

Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

# BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

## Texas COVID-19 Roundup 10/23/20



Courtesy Of The Texas Tribune Staff

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

### OVERVIEW

#### Texas COVID-19 Cases And Hospitalizations Increase After September's Plateau

**Average new cases INCREASED**

by 906 cases compared with the seven-day average a week ago. On Oct. 18, 3,048 new cases were reported.

**Hospitalizations INCREASED**

by 604 patients compared with a week ago. As of Oct. 18, 4,226 Texans are hospitalized for the coronavirus.

**Average new deaths DECREASED**

by 11 deaths compared with the seven-day average a week ago. On Oct. 18, 30 new deaths were reported.

NOTE: The data The Texas Tribune uses data from the Texas Department of State Health Services to track how many people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Texas each day. The state data comes from 57 city and county health departments, about 600 hospitals and 340 laboratories and the state vital records registration. It may not represent all cases of the disease given limited testing.

**What you should know:** On Oct. 18, COVID-19 hospitalizations and the 7-day average of cases have each risen more than

30% statewide in the last two weeks after plateauing in September, including in El Paso and the Amarillo and Lubbock areas. Experts blame social events like birthday parties and game day gatherings, and they say there is widespread fatigue for following stringent public health guidelines.

**How we got here:** Under Abbott's plan to revive the economy, businesses started reopening in May. But Abbott paused further reopening plans and scaled back others in June, telling one TV station he regretted re-

opening bars too quickly. As hospitalizations increased dramatically in June and July, Abbott issued a statewide mandate requiring most Texans to wear masks in public spaces, which experts say may have led to a plateauing of cases and hospitalization levels. In September, the numbers dropped to levels not seen since June, leading Abbott to loosen restrictions on restaurants, bars and other businesses. Recently, the numbers have increased again, leading experts to worry the state is headed toward another surge.

**Where are most of the cases in Texas?** As of Oct. 18, the state has reported 823,779 cases in 253 counties since the pandemic began. The Tribune is measuring both the number of cases in each county and the rate of cases per 1,000 residents.

**Cases per 1,000 residents:** The rate of cases per 1,000 residents is high in the Panhandle's Moore County, where early outbreaks were tied to a meatpacking plant, and in counties with state prisons such as Walker and Jones. South Texas and the Coastal Bend emerged as hot spots in July, and counties with college towns, like Lubbock and Brazos, saw cases surge as students returned to campus in late August.

Cumulative cases may go down over 14 days in some counties for several reasons, including inmates who tested positive being moved or cases that were counted twice being removed.

**State preparedness:** After COVID-19 cases in parts of Texas surged to near catastrophic levels this summer, experts say the state is better equipped to handle another wave, including an adequate supply of protective gear and sizable quantities of drugs like remdesivir. But they fear that if the state fails to control the outbreak, a fall surge could be taxing on hospitals. As colder weather forces people inside and families gather for the holiday season, the chances for transmission increase. The majority of new cases recently have been among people in their 20s and 30s who are generally healthier and less likely to face serious health complications, a shift from the spring and summer surges when older people and those with preexisting health conditions were hit hardest. But health experts say cases in a younger demo-

graphic may not stay concentrated within that population.

Hospitalizations from COVID-19 have already begun to tick upward in areas of the state including West Texas, the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the Panhandle. In El Paso, a record 496 people were hospitalized Monday, and only 16 intensive care unit beds were available among facilities in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties. The mayor of El Paso scaled back business capacity, and the Dallas County judge increased the county's coronavirus threat level to red last week. Meanwhile, Gov. Greg Abbott dispatched an emergency team of doctors and nurses to assist local health care facilities in El Paso and sent additional medical resources to Amarillo and Lubbock in response to rising hospitalizations. Read the full story by the Tribune's Shawn Mulcahy.



**Vaccine availability:** Texas health officials predict that if a COVID-19 vaccine is ready next month, it won't be widely available to Texans until at least July. Under the state's vaccine distribution plan, vulnerable people, including health care workers, older people and people with underlying medical conditions, would likely be the first to get the vaccine in the early months that it's available. The estimated timeline presented at a meeting of health officials Monday hinges on the COVID-19 vaccine being approved before the end of the year, though it remains unclear whether that will happen. There is no authorized vaccine for COVID-19 yet, but there are several that are in different phases of development. Read the full story by the Tribune's Aria Jones.

**Returning to the classroom:** While several school districts are trying to accommodate teachers with health conditions who want to work from home, many Texas teachers with medical risks are being told they must return to classrooms during the pandemic as more

students come back to in-person instruction. International Leadership of Texas is one of a number of Texas schools denying some teachers' requests to work from home, as they balance staffing against often-fluctuating student enrollment.

Federal disability law allows employees to ask their bosses for reasonable accommodations, such as temporary schedule changes, shift changes or working remotely, if an illness puts them at higher risk for COVID-19. School districts must grant those requests unless they would pose an "undue hardship," including costing too much or impeding their ability to run the school. Read the full story by the Tribune's Aliyya Swaby and Emma Platoff.

**How many people are in the hospital?** On Oct. 18, there were at least 4,226 hospitalized patients in Texas with confirmed coronavirus infections. This data does not account for people who are hospitalized but have not gotten a positive test, and the Texas Department of State Health Services says some hospitals may be missing from the daily counts.

These numbers do not include beds at psychiatric hospitals or other psychiatric facilities, according to DSHS. They do include psychiatric and pediatric beds at general hospitals, and pediatric beds at children's hospitals.

**Total current hospitalization** The state says roughly 2% to 6% of Texas hospitals do not report hospitalizations data each day. The average number of hospitalizations reported over the past seven days shows how the situation has changed over time by de-emphasizing daily swings.

· 9% or more of hospitals reported incomplete data, falling outside of the typical range of missing data.

· **Note:** From July 23 to July 28, between 9% and 18% of hospitals reported incomplete hospitalization numbers due to changes in reporting to meet federal requirements.

On Oct. 18, the state reported 12,728 available staffed hospital beds, including 1,048 available staffed ICU beds statewide. COVID-19 patients currently occupy 6.7% of total hospital beds.

(Courtesy texastribune.org/)

(Article continues on page C4)

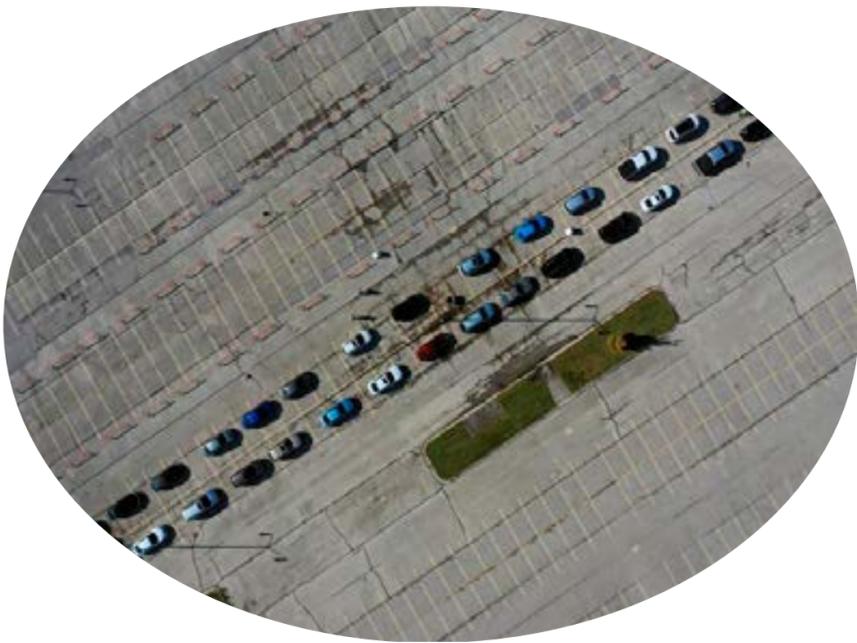
# Editor's Choice



Former President Barack Obama waves while wearing a "Vote" mask as he campaigns on behalf of Democratic presidential nominee and his former Vice President Joe Biden, in Philadelphia. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



A missile is launched during a military drill, with the participation of Iran's Air Defense units, in Iran. WANA via REUTERS



An aerial view of people waiting in their vehicles for COVID-19 tests at a drive-thru testing site in the parking lot of Miller Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. REUTERS/Bing Guan



A 14-foot cut-out of President Trump stands on the front lawn of the self-proclaimed 'Trump House' in Youngstown, Pennsylvania. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Police try to separate pro-democracy protesters and royalists (wearing yellow) during a clash in Bangkok, Thailand. REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun



A woman lies in the road outside the LA Board of Supervisors during a die-in protest and memorial service honoring the over 6,800 people from LA who died from the coronavirus, in Los Angeles. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson



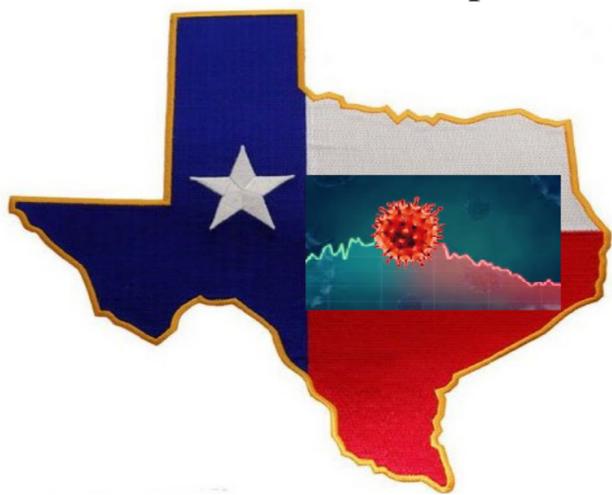
Members of the Bavarian State Parliament are separated by plexiglass panels during the speech of Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Soeder, in Munich, Germany. Peter Kneffel/Pool via REUTERS



Activists dressed in Handmaid's Tale costumes rally in front of the Supreme Court to oppose the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett in Washington, D.C. REUTERS/Ken Cedeno

(Article continued from page C2)

**Texas COVID-19 Roundup 10/23/20**



Courtesy Of The Texas Tribune Staff

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

**New Deaths From Coronavirus Reported Each Day In Texas**

The average number of deaths reported over the past seven days shows how the situation has changed over time by de-emphasizing daily swings.

Apr. 1 -Aug. daily average Oct. 1830 deaths



**How many people have died?** The first death linked to the coronavirus in Texas occurred March 16 in Matagorda County. As of Oct. 18, 17,014 people who tested positive for the virus have died. On July 27, DSHS began reporting deaths based on death certificates that state the cause of death as COVID-19 instead of relying on counts released by local and regional health departments. On that date, the state added more than 400 previously unreported deaths to the cumulative total. This does not include the deaths of people with

COVID-19 who died of an unrelated cause. Death certificates are required by law to be filed within 10 days. Because of this change, it's impossible to compare the rate of deaths before and after July 27. Experts say the official state death toll is likely an undercount.

**How have the number of cases increased each day?** The state only tracks confirmed cases of the coronavirus, not probable cases, based on criteria published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, DSHS may still accidentally include probable cases for certain counties. When found, they are removed.

Because the state does not include probable cases, these numbers don't include the results from tens of thousands of rapid-result antigen tests, which suggests the state is underre-

porting the number of Texans who have tested positive for the virus. Antigen tests are taken by nasal or throat swab like other viral tests, but results are much faster.

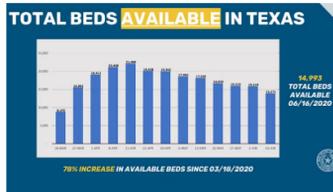
Delays and backlogs in reporting can also create one-day surges when cases from multiple days are added on the same day.

**New cases of coronavirus each day in Texas** The average number of cases reported over the past seven days shows how the situation has changed over time by de-emphasizing daily swings. The number of new cases reported drops on weekends, when labs are less likely to report new data to the state. **How has the positivity rate changed?** The seven-day average positivity rate is calculated by dividing the average of positive tests by the average of total tests conducted over the last seven days. This shows how the situation has changed over time by de-emphasizing daily swings. Public health experts want the positivity rate to remain below 6% — and, ideally, to fall much lower.

In early May, Abbott said a rate over 10% would be a "warning flag." The state exceeded that mark in June and remained above 10% until late August.

The state began using only molecular tests to calculate its positivity rate, excluding "probable" cases detected by antigen tests, in early August.

**Hospital beds in use in Texas** The percentage of hospital beds in use for each trauma service region shows how the virus is currently impacting hospitals in different parts of the state. These regions are administered by Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).



**7-day average for the positivity rate** The state released a new, more accurate version of the positivity rate in September, which is calculated by dividing positive molecular tests by total molecular tests. Because this new formula relies on the date on which the test was administered, the rates for previous days will be recalculated as more test results from those dates come in. On Sept. 14, DSHS began publishing a new version of the state's positivity rate, which takes

into account the date a coronavirus test was administered. Previously, the state's rate relied on the date a test was reported to health officials and verified as a case, which sometimes caused the rate to swing wildly after officials input large numbers of older, backlogged test results. The positivity rate calculation change revealed that the figure was higher in the spring than originally disclosed.

**How many people have been tested?** As of Oct. 17, Texas has administered at least 8,014,408 tests for the coronavirus since March. We do not know the number of Texans who have gotten a test because some people are tested more than once. The state's tally also does not include pending tests.

**Coronavirus test results reported to the state each day** The average number of tests reported over the past seven days shows how the situation has changed over time by de-emphasizing daily swings. In April, Abbott set a goal of 30,000 daily tests in the state.

- Viral tests (molecular and antigen)
  - Antibody tests
  - State did not release the breakdown of tests Apr. 1-Aug. 150 7-day average Goal: 30,000 tests Oct. 6,251 tests
- Note: Antibody tests were included in the new total tests counts for each day before May 14. The state separately reported the number of new daily antibody and viral tests after that date. See notes about the data.

Since mid-May, state officials have separately reported the number of antibody tests. Antibody tests detect whether someone was previously infected, while standard viral tests determine whether someone currently has the virus. Antibody tests are typically reported a day late.

**How is this impacting Texans of color?** The limited data released by state health officials offers a murky glimpse of the virus' impact on Texas communities of color. Race and ethnicity are reported as unknown for a significant portion of the completed case reports. (Agency officials said some people prefer not to provide the information.) Case data gathered in various parts of the state shows the disproportionate impact of the virus on Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. The areas with the highest positivity rates in Harris County are predominantly Hispanic, according to a UTHealth School of Public Health analysis. In Dallas County, lower-income Black communities have also

reported some of the highest positivity rates. And some regions of the state with the highest mortality rates have a large Hispanic share of the population, particularly in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas.

**What else should I know about this data?** These numbers come from the Texas Department of State Health Services, which typically updates statewide case counts by 4 p.m. each day. The data is from the same morning, and it may lag behind other local news reports.

In order to publish data quickly, the state has to bypass what is normally a monthslong process of reviewing the COVID-19 data and performing quality checks before publishing. That's why all of these numbers and information are provisional and subject to change. The state's data includes cases from federal immigration detention centers, federal prisons and starting in mid-May, some state prisons. It does not include cases reported at military bases. From March 13 through March 24, the Tribune added cases from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, where hundreds of American evacuees from China and cruise ships were quarantined. The state's data includes cases from federal immigration detention centers, federal prisons and starting in mid-May, some state prisons. It does not include cases reported at military bases.

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**Notes about the data:** On March 24, the state changed how it reported numbers resulting in a sharp increase in cases. Antibody tests were included in the new total tests counts for each day before May 14. Previously, the state had counted about 50,000 total antibody tests as virus tests, artificially deflating the positivity rate.

After a system upgrade on June 7 resulting in incomplete test data, the state revised the test numbers for June 6 to show a decrease in total viral tests. The testing numbers for June 6 are not shown in the test results by day chart. (Courtesy texastribune.org/)

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