



**DARYL L. FOWLER**  
**County Judge**

307 N. Gonzales Street  
 Cuero, Texas 77954  
 Ph.: 361-275-0916  
 Fax: 361-275-0919  
 daryl.fowler@co.DeWitt.tx.us  
 blair.duran@co.DeWitt.tx.us

12/18/2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**DeWitt County reports additional COVID-19 infections and recoveries**

County officials are reporting changes since the December 16, 2020 update. There are **eighteen (18)** new cases to report. **Nine (9)** of the individuals live in the Cuero zip code. **Six (6)** live in the Yorktown zip code. **Three (3)** live in the Yoakum zip code. **Sixteen (16)** previously diagnosed cases have recovered. As of today, there are **one hundred thirty-six (136)** active cases. **Two (2)** of these patients are hospitalized. **One hundred-thirty-four (134)** are recovering at home.

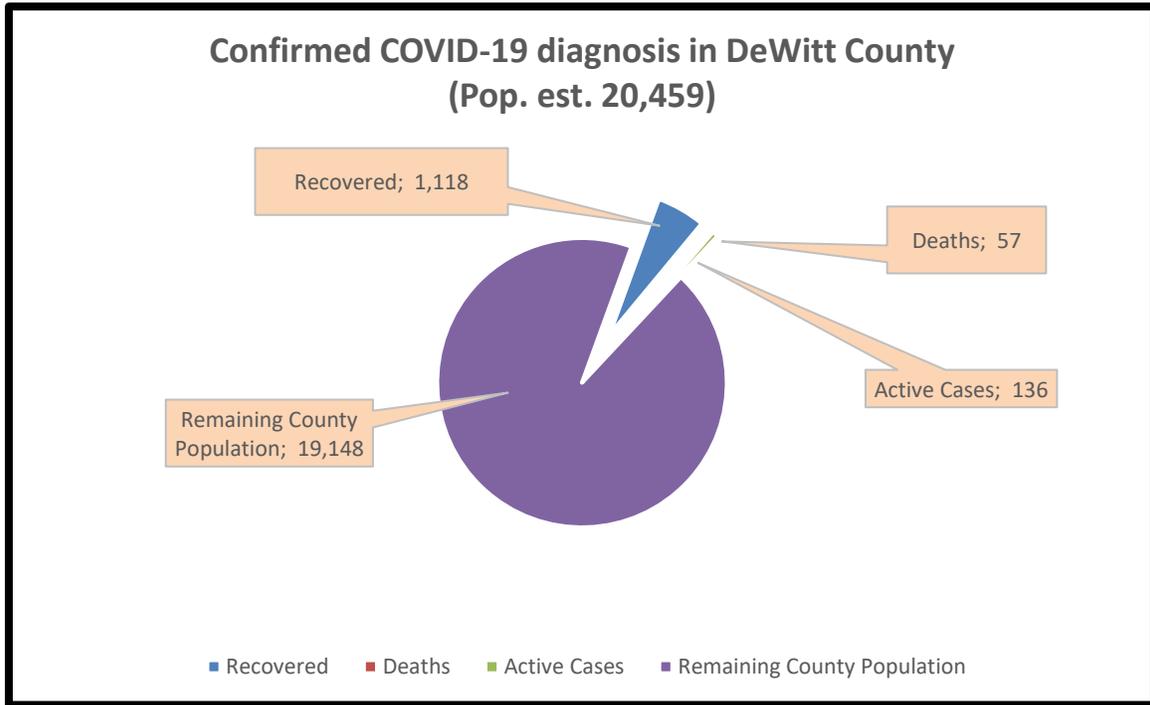
Although a total of **1,311** cases have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020, the active case count in the county may be higher due to the fact that not every infected person experiences symptoms or seeks treatment for COVID19.

Of this total, **twenty-nine (29)** are known to be duplicated entries. **Ten (10)** are known to be reported in the wrong county. This error typically occurs when test results are received from the Yoakum area and the patient’s residence in is Lavaca County. Taking into account the above-referenced errors, the county believes the correct number of recoveries stands at **eleven hundred-eighteen (1,118)**. The number of deaths reported to the state remains at **fifty-seven (57)**.

**Table 1. COVID-19 Case Count and Patient Status**

<b>2020 DeWitt County Population Estimate</b>		<b>20,459</b>
<b><u>DIAGNOSED CASES: New / Total</u></b> <b>Reported to DSHS</b>	<b>+ 18</b>	<b>1,311</b>
<b>REMOVED (duplicate cases)</b>		<b>(29)</b>
<b>REMOVED (wrong county)</b>		<b>(10)</b>
<b>NET TOTAL DIAGNOSED since 3/13/2020</b>		<b>1,272</b>
<b>DEATHS REPORTED: New / Total</b>		<b>57</b>
<b>RECOVERED: New / Total</b>	<b>+ 16</b>	<b>1,118</b>
<b><u>ACTIVE CASES</u></b>	<b>*****</b>	<b>*****</b>
<b>at Home / Hospitalized / Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2 = 136</b>
<b>14-DAY (NEW) CASE COUNT</b> <b>&lt;30 FOR GA-32 FACE MASK WAIVER</b>	<b>ineligible</b>	

**Chart 1. COVID-19 Experience**



Approximately **65 percent** of the **122,673** confirmed cases and approximately **62 percent** of the **2,304** deaths attributable to COVID-19 in DSHS Region 8 have occurred in Bexar County. There are approximately 3.1 million people in the 28 counties that make up Region 8. DSHS data is current through **December 17, 2020**.

In an effort to slow the spread of this infectious disease, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued Executive Orders during this period of emergency. Following the governor’s order, Judge Fowler signed documents allowing bars and related establishments to open October 14, 2020. Rising hospitalization rates in Trauma Service Area S may result in the closing of bars, and restaurant serving capacity may be reduced from 75 to 50 percent under the governor’s latest executive orders. The list of trauma service areas can be obtained at [www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031).

DeWitt County does not meet the governor’s criteria for a waiver of the requirement to wear a face mask in public when social distancing cannot be achieved. Before a county becomes eligible, the rolling 14-day case count must be under 30 new cases during the previous 14 days.

The public can find up-to-date coronavirus information at the Texas Department for State Health Services [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus) and the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> and DeWitt County at [www.co.dewitt.tx.us](http://www.co.dewitt.tx.us) and on the Facebook Page of DeWitt County Office of Emergency Management. The governor’s office is also providing information and links to the Executive Orders through the website [www.governor.texas.gov](http://www.governor.texas.gov)

-30-

**News Media Contact:** Cyndi Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator, 361-275-0878  
Daryl Fowler, DeWitt County Judge, 361-275-0916