



Hays County Local Health Department

December 3, 2020

Yesterday afternoon, December 2, 2020, the CDC published new guidance for public health authorities to determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. The CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives.

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring

Or

- When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than Day 7.

These new recommendations from the CDC allow local jurisdictions to assess their current situations and make recommendations based on local positivity rates, the extent of community spreading and current active cases.

We are beginning to see our case counts steadily rise, just as was expected during this holiday season. Over the past three weeks, we have seen our active case counts triple and our positivity rate double. There have not been any large events or individual locations that can be identified as sources for the spike in cases, so the only determination is that we are still seeing significant community spreading occurring within our area.

Based on these three factors, the Hays County Local Health Department is recommending that all Hays County residents, ISDs, and businesses continue to follow the 14-day quarantine schedule. We will continue to assess our situation and re-evaluate these recommendations based on the statistics reported to our department.