

Fort Bend County COVID-19 Community Risk Level

During an outbreak, the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may vary from very high to relatively lower risk. The level of risk depends in part on the environment, type of activity performed, and the potential for close contact (within 6 feet of another person) for a repeated or extended period. To help Residents determine appropriate precautions, Fort Bend County has adopted four color levels to characterize the different risk exposure levels, consisting of high, moderate low and new normal.



Risk Level	Risk Description	Activity	Public Health Guidance	Changing level from red to green* (All Criteria must be met)	Changing level from Green to red
High Community Risk	Outbreaks are widespread and the healthcare system (including hospitals, testing, and tracing capacity) is strained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid all gatherings of any size Avoid Non-essential business and personal travel Avoid public transportation where possible Practice Good Hygiene and social distancing Cancel visits to nursing homes, long term care facilities and hospitals 	STAY HOME STAY SAFE Minimize contact with others wherever possible and avoid leaving home except for essential needs. Practice physical distancing, wash hands frequently, stay home when ill, and use face coverings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 day flat or decreasing trend in new COVID-19 cases 14 day flat or decreasing trend in daily COVID-19 hospital and ICU population 14-day average of fewer than 15% of hospital population in use by COVID-19** 	
Moderate to Significant Community Risk	High/moderate potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of COVID-19; health care system has adequate capacity but could be exceeded if multiple outbreaks occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid and cancel medium (10-250 people) and large public and private gatherings (250+) Avoid non-essential business and personal travel Use public transportation with caution Practice good hygiene and social distancing Cancel visits to nursing homes, long-term care facilities and hospitals 	Minimize contact with others but begin leaving home for non-essential needs, except medium and large gatherings. Practice physical distancing, wash hands frequently, stay home when ill, and use face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 day flat or decreasing trend in new COVID-19 cases 14 day flat or decreasing trend in daily COVID-19 hospital and ICU population 14-day average or fewer than 10% of hospital population in use by COVID-19 patients** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 day increasing trend in new COVID-19 cases 7 day increasing trend in daily COVID-19 hospital population 3-day average or greater than 15% of current ICU beds in use by COVID-19 patients
Low to Moderate Community Risk	Significant sustained reduction in community transmission; controlled community spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid and cancel medium (10-250 people) and large public/private gatherings (250+) Avoid non-essential business and personal travel Use public transportation with caution Practice good hygiene and social distancing Avoid visits to vulnerable populations in nursing homes and long-term facilities and hospitals 	Resume contact with others, but minimize unnecessary contact with the most vulnerable. Resume leaving the home even for large gatherings. Practice physical distancing, wash hands frequently, stay home when ill, and use face coverings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 day flat or decreasing trend in new COVID-19 cases 14 day flat or decreasing trend in daily COVID-19 hospital and ICU population 14-day average or fewer than 5% of hospital population in use by COVID-19 patients** Availability of a safe and effective vaccine to protect against SarsCoV-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 day increasing trend in new COVID-19 cases 7 day increasing trend in daily COVID-19 hospital population 3-day average or greater than 15% of current ICU beds in use by COVID-19 patients
Minimal Community Risk	Minimal and controlled level of COVID-19 in Fort Bend County. New chains of transmission are rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume attending public and private gatherings freely. Resume non-essential business and private travel. Avoid other states and countries where widespread and transmission may still be occurring. Resume full public transportation use. Resume visiting vulnerable populations while practicing good hygiene and social distancing. 	Resume normal contact with others unless sick		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-day increasing trend in new COVID-19 cases

*With inconsistent data reporting, the change between levels may not occur on the same day metrics are met to ensure adequate time to verify source of spikes due to data dumps or backlogged reporting from outside systems.

**General beds and ICU beds will be considered

