

# Press Release

Hamilton County Health Department



Web: [health.hamiltontn.org](http://health.hamiltontn.org)

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

September 25, 2020

## Health Department Clarifies Active Case and Data Clean-Up Definitions

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN – The number of active COVID-19 cases in Hamilton County dropped significantly on Thursday, September 24, 2020. The decline was due to three factors:

1. The Health Department is seeing a downward trend in new positive cases reported daily in Hamilton County.
2. The Health Department changed the automatic roll-off of “active” status from 21 days to 14 days earlier this month to align with Tennessee Department of Health and CDC guidance.
3. On September 24, 2020, the Health Department applied a “data clean-up” because some recovered/inactive cases had not rolled off automatically as they were supposed to. Cases were manually removed that were no longer active. Moving forward, this should not be a problem with cases not rolling off timely.

Active cases are the number of cases still in their infectious period. Typically, this is 10 days, but it can be longer. The Health Department uses a 14-day period to account for some of these variables. An estimate of active cases can be the cumulative number of cases for the past ten days. The exact number that is reported will reflect variables such as how early in their infectious period cases were reported and cases with prolonged infectious periods.

COVID-19 data is updated daily on the Health Department’s [website](http://health.hamiltontn.org) between 3-4PM.

For more information about COVID-19 and free Health Department testing, call the hotline at (423) 209-8383, or visit these Health Department resources:

- Website: <http://health.hamiltontn.org/>
- English Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonTNHealthDept/>
- Spanish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SaludHamiltonTN/>
- YouTube English: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKf8VUBQFLiJoxh8Sk10mA>
- YouTube Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwHuLpBFuLOf6hDTCFbfyQ>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HamiltonHealth>
- Subscribe to the Mailing List: <https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/j6u3e5>

###