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**NEWS
RELEASE**

03 / 19 / 2020
El Paso, Texas

Three New Cases of COVID-19 Identified in El Paso

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health announced today that three new individuals have tested positive for COVID-19. The total number of positive cases in El Paso now stands at six.

The fourth patient is a female in her late 60s and the fifth is a female in her late teens. It is believed that these two patients were associated with the second case while in quarantine together. The sixth case involves a male in his 20s and is believed to be travel-related as he recently traveled abroad. None of these cases are from Fort Bliss and all new cases are being monitored and recovering at home.

“Also, it should be noted that we have tested more than 60 individuals and only six have come back positive,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority, “this means that more than 90 percent of those with signs and symptoms and risks have tested negative.”

The public is reminded that COVID-19 is not an airborne disease like measles. It is spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouth or nose of people who are nearby or possibly inhaled into the lungs. Preliminary information about COVID-19 shows that about 80 percent of cases are mild and most people do not need hospitalization. However, older adults and people with underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes are at a greater risk of complications.

Local officials have begun using the El Paso 911 Notification System to inform area residents of the most up-to-date COVID-19 information and prevention methods. Anyone who is interested in receiving regular emails, text messages, or telephone calls may sign up for the service at:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612432#/signup>

DPH officials continue to urge residents to follow prevention measures and stay up-to-date with the latest information by subscribing to both the City and DPH social media platforms, and to visit www.EPHealth.com or www.EPSalud.com for updates.

Additionally the 2-1-1 Texas Call Center is available 24/7. Callers can dial 2-1-1 and select option six for more information.

[Message from Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority \(English\)](#)

[Mensaje del Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Autoridad del Condado/Ciudad de El Paso \(Español\)](#)

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Media Contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
(915) 915.212.1040
(915) 915.781.4386