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RELEASE**

**03 / 26 / 2020**  
El Paso, Texas

## City Urges Public to avoid Playground and Workout Equipment at City Parks

**EL PASO, Texas** – To stop the spread of COVID-19 and for the safety of the public, the Parks and Recreation Department urges residents not to use playground equipment or workout stations if they visit City parks during the Stay Home, Work Safe order.

During the announcement of the "Stay Home, Work Safe" order, El Paso Mayor Dee Margo advised that people can go to public parks and open recreation areas but are discouraged from using playground or outdoor exercise equipment.

In addition, the El Paso Public Health Department urges parents to keep children away from playground equipment because the virus can live on surfaces for hours, even days.

All Parks and Recreation facilities remain closed until further notice as a precautionary response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parks and trails remain open to the public with some recommendations that include:

- Maintaining at least 6 feet of social distance from others
- Choose less populated parks and trails
- Do not park in a crowded parking lot or use a crowded trail
- Wash hands before and after each visit

"Fresh air and exercise are an important part of maintaining wellness during this unprecedented period in which we work to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 in our community," said El Paso Parks and Recreation Department Interim Director Ben Fyffe. "Families are urged to use caution, avoid playgrounds and exercise equipment while still enjoying access to El Paso's parks."

Residents are encouraged to stay up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 information by subscribing to both the City of El Paso and DPH social media platforms and visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org). Information is also available by calling the COVID-19 hotline (915) 212-6843 or (915) 21-COVID.

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