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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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COVID-19 UPDATE

City Reports Two Additional Deaths, Another Spike in Positive Cases

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting **two (2)** additional COVID-19 deaths, bringing the total number of deaths to **32**. The patients with underlying health conditions include two males in their 60s.

El Paso is also reporting **86** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county’s total number to **1,276**. To-date **643** people have recovered from COVID-19; consequently, there are **601** active cases within the county. Positive cases in El Paso County include 663 females and 612 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are 83 patients who are hospitalized, and 47 of those hospitalized are currently in ICU. The DPH has been working with the private laboratories, who are only required to report positive numbers, to obtain their total numbers. Based on this reporting, it is estimated that as of today more than 11,800 tests have been performed.

“It is another heartbreaking day for our community as we have the misfortune to report two new deaths due to COVID-19. We send our deepest condolences to the families of these two individuals,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. “Our community is once again seeing a considerable increase in positive COVID-19 cases. The number will continue to go up if residents do not take this pandemic seriously. I have said it over and over again that we must remain at home if possible, wear face coverings when out in public and continue to frequently wash your hands with soap and water. Again, I urge residents to take responsibility and do all the necessary preventative measures to keep themselves and others safe.”

On Monday, May 4, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order Number 21, which allows for the opening of more businesses. While it is important to support the local economy, health officials urge the community to review and follow the health prevention recommendations in the order to help slow the spread of the virus.

We know now that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in the amended directive, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

Residents are encouraged to report non-compliance by calling the police department non-emergency at (915) 832-4400. **Any violation to the amended Emergency Directive will be issued a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.** Anyone with questions about the local directive can call 3-1-1.

Health questions about COVID-19 can be made by calling the 21-COVID hotline which is operational from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For referral to services, contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6). For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication** Among All Members of the Community