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RELEASE**

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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Health Officials Release Cluster Data

**EL PASO, Texas** — Earlier today the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) published 75 new COVID-19 cases on the City's website ([www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org)) bringing the county's total number to 2,340.

Of the 2,340 positive cases, 813 cases are related to a cluster, a collection of two (2) or more cases of the virus in the same area at the same time. To-date there are ten (10) clusters seen at one of 120 facilities. These include:

- Care facilities for the elderly  
(21 facilities, 216 cases)
- General businesses  
(40 facilities, 187 cases)
- Healthcare facilities  
(26 facilities, 180 cases)
- Correctional-Detention facilities  
(six facilities, 102 cases)
- Government  
(13 facilities, 52 cases)
- Call centers  
(five facilities, 33 cases)
- Big Box stores  
(six facilities, 15 cases)
- Construction  
(four facilities, 12 cases)
- Schools  
(four facilities, 12 cases)
- Shelters  
(one facility, four cases)

DPH also reported the source of exposure being about 50 percent close contact (family members, friends or co-workers); about 20 percent community-transmitted (cases occurring among those who did not have any known contact with infected persons); about 20 percent travel-related and about 10 percent of the cases are under investigation. Please see accompanying graphics.

During the DPH epidemiological investigation on positive cases, patients are interviewed to determine their condition and immediate needs, to provide isolation orders and guidance, and to elicit information on potentially exposed contacts needed for contact tracing. Contact tracing is conducted as an effort to determine possible spread of infection and implement measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. The investigation can lead to identifying clusters of people who might be infected within the same location.

"Clusters, or multiple infections within the same setting, is just one of the reasons we urge the community to practice social distancing; to stay home whenever possible; to not go out if you're feeling sick; wear a face covering and to avoid large gatherings," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. "Our contact tracers work quickly to identify those who might have been exposed, where they might have been exposed and recommend isolation/quarantine. This is how it is possible to find clusters. When one is found, in many ways is like setting off an alarm. Once the alarm goes off, you must respond quickly because every moment wasted will allow the virus to spread further. The faster the infected individuals are identified and isolated, the better chance we have to reduce and control the spread. However, we need the public's cooperation to do their part, heed our warnings and help reduce the risk of infection that might lead to more deaths and families left without a loved one."

The public is once again reminded that even infected persons with little to no symptoms can spread the virus to others and every person must work to protect each other, especially those who are the most vulnerable (person 65 or older and/or with pre-existing health conditions). For more information, visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org).



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