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RELEASE**

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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## City Reports One COVID-19 Death, Urges Residents to Protect Vulnerable Population

**EL PASO, Texas**—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting **one (1)** additional COVID-19 death, bringing the total number of deaths to **23**. The male patient was in his 90s with underlying health conditions.

El Paso is also reporting **39** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county’s total number to **1,119**. To-date **559** people have recovered from COVID-19; consequently, there are **537** active cases within the county. Positive cases in El Paso County include 590 females and 529 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are 68 patients who are hospitalized, and 39 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 10,700 tests have been performed.

The majority of COVID-19 patients who have died in El Paso County have been seniors who are the most vulnerable members of our community. It is important to remind everyone that COVID-19 infections can be prevented by staying home and remaining distant from others that do not live in their immediate household.

Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority, reminds the public that whether you have symptoms or not, you may have the virus and not know it. This is why it is crucial to remain distant from anybody not living in the same household and wearing a face covering.

“We are saddened to report another death due to the virus, and we send our deepest condolences to his family,” Ocaranza said. “If you do not live in the same household with your parents, grandparents and other members of your extended family – do not physically visit them. You can still see and talk with them, but using a different method like FaceTime, phone calls, online meeting chats. The lives of the ones you love are worth more than a get together that can result in sharing or contracting the virus. We need everybody to do their part and take responsibility for their actions to reduce the spread of this deadly virus.”

The public is reminded again that face coverings are locally mandated, but they are not required on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or exercising outdoors and not within 6 feet of any other individual not from the same household. Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.

It is recommended that face coverings be cleaned daily. Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth when removing their face covering and wash their hands before and after removing the covering.

**Residents are encouraged to report non-compliance by calling the police department non-emergency at (915) 832-4400. 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](http://www.epstrong.org).

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**Media Contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios**  
Communications and Public Affairs  
915.781.4386

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