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**NEWS
RELEASE**

03 / 15 / 2020
El Paso, Texas

Second Presumptive Positive Case of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Identified

El Paso, TX – This afternoon the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting the second presumptive positive test result for COVID-19 in El Paso County.

The male patient in his 40s who is hospitalized. With the epidemiological investigation still in its early phase, it is not known at this time if the man has a history of travel outside out region. Results of that investigation will be used to identify any close contacts who may have been exposed by the patient and if any further testing of close contacts needs to take place.

“News of this case came to us less than an hour before a press conference that had been scheduled days prior,” said Robert Resendes, Public Health Director. “This is just an example of how quickly things can change when it comes to this virus and our willingness as public servants to provide accurate information to the public as swiftly as possible.”

The public is reminded that COVID-19 is not an airborne disease and is spread primarily via coughs and sneezes of those already infected. 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.

DPH officials continue to urge residents to 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 Information and Referral Center is available 24/7. Callers can dial 2-1-1 and select option 6 for more information.

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