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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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COVID-19 Update

El Paso Positive Cases Continue to Climb

EL PASO, Texas — The City of El Paso Public Health Department reported **39** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's total number to **192**.

Positive cases in El Paso County include 101 females and 91 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 40 patients who are hospitalized, and 12 of those hospitalized are currently in ICU.

"People need to realize that things will continue getting worse in El Paso if they don't adhere to the Stay Home, Work Safe orders," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. "We've doubled our cases in five days. If we don't stay at home, practice social distancing, and wear the recommended face coverings when in public, it is only a matter of time before everyone knows someone who is infected in El Paso. We can prevent this by being proactive in our approach, but it will take all of us."

In addition to abiding by the Stay Home, Work Safe orders and avoiding any gatherings with anyone outside a person's immediate household, public health officials continue to urge residents to use face coverings when out performing essential duties or tasks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. (See: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)

It is also recommended that the 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 immediately after removing the covering.

The 21-COVID hotline 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, services contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6). For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

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