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Tommy Gonzalez

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**NEWS
RELEASE**

04 / 14 / 2020

City Reports Two Additional COVID-19 Deaths

City Assists Passengers with Disabilities, Partners with UTEP

EL PASO, Texas — The City of El Paso Public Health Department is reporting the **two** additional COVID-19 deaths, bringing the total number of deaths to **four**. The patients were both males in their 70s with underlying health conditions.

El Paso is now reporting **46** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's total number to **346**. Positive cases in El Paso County include 175 females and 171 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 61 patients who are hospitalized, and 26 of those hospitalized are currently in ICU.

"We once again are saddened to report two new deaths due to COVID-19, and our hearts go out to the families of these two men," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. "We are also disappointed to report another large increase in the number of positive cases, which further emphasizes the need for the community to strictly adhere to the Stay Home, Work Safe Order."

STAY HOME, WORK SAFE ORDERS EXTENDED

On Sunday, April 12, 2020, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott extended his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. On Monday, April 13, in compliance with the state, the City Council voted extend the City's Disaster Declaration until May 17, 2020, to include the Stay Home, Work Safe orders.

"The Governor extended his Disaster Declaration to May 30, and to ensure compliance with State law requiring 30 day extensions, the City Council renewed the Emergency Declaration and Stay Home Order an additional 30 days. Originally issued on March 17, the order will now continue until May 17," said Mayor Dee Margo. "Today's heartbreaking report of two additional deaths and 46 new cases proves that we cannot let our guard down. We need to protect the health and wellness of our residents, especially our most vulnerable loved ones."

ASSISTING PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES

The City of El Paso and Project Amistad have teamed up in order to meet the testing needs of people with disabilities, who otherwise would not have access.

Passengers with disabilities, who meet the drive thru testing criteria and have scheduled an appointment to be tested via the drive thru, can call Sun Metro LIFT to schedule special transportation accommodations. LIFT staff will coordinate the transportation through Project Amistad, who will take the passenger to the testing site and take them back home after the test.

If a resident meets the drive thru criteria, they can make an appointment at (915)212-0783. Testing criteria can be found on the epstrong.org home page and click on "Testing Information" button. To schedule an appointment with the LIFT program, call (915)212-0100, Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. LIFT transportation services are available from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Friday and 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.

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UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

The City of El Paso is collaborating with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso in order to provide additional COVID-19 testing.

The agreements will be finalized in late April with testing to begin soon after. In the agreement, Texas Tech extended its medical testing certification to the UTEP laboratories. The extension will allow UTEP faculty and staff to assist the Department of Public Health to analyze patient samples for COVID-19. Results will be sent to the healthcare provider who will notify the patients.

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

PSA: COVID-19 ENFORCEMENT

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