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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Reports Two Additional COVID-19 Deaths El Paso Positive Cases Continue to Climb

EL PASO, Texas — The City of El Paso Public Health Department is reporting **two (2)** additional COVID-19 deaths, bringing the total number of deaths to **six (6)**. Both patients are males with underlying health conditions, one in his 50s and the other in his 80s.

El Paso is now reporting **47** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's total number to **393**. Positive cases in El Paso County include 203 females and 190 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 65 patients hospitalized, and 27 of those 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. “Our numbers continue to rise. 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 one of our loved ones is struck by COVID-19 and we do not want more devastated families. 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 to services contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6). For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

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