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**NEWS
RELEASE**

04 / 18 / 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Officials Report Additional COVID-19 Death

EL PASO, Texas — The City of El Paso Public Health Department is reporting **one** additional COVID-19 death, bringing the total number of deaths to **eight (8)**. The patient was a male in his 70s with underlying health conditions.

El Paso is now reporting **23** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's total number to **505**. Positive cases in El Paso County include 258 females and 247 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 25 patients who are hospitalized, and 10 of those hospitalized are currently in ICU.

"We send our sincere condolences to the loved ones of our latest COVID-19 victim. We also wish to remind the community that our community's curve will not flatten unless we take the Stay Home, Work Safe Orders seriously and follow social distancing guidelines," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. "We have seen time and time again in other parts of the country where there are no social distancing guidelines and individuals not wearing face coverings the number of positive cases quickly escalate. We can and must take responsibility for own actions."

Public health officials continue to remind residents that the Stay Home order remains in effect and urges the community to use face coverings when out performing essential duties or tasks. Face coverings should be washed daily. Individuals are reminded to be cautious to not touch their eyes, nose and mouth when removing their face covering and wash their hands immediately after removing the covering. If you wear gloves, make sure they are properly disposed of and worn appropriately. (See: [What is Cross-Contamination](#))

The signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If these symptoms appear and do not improve, the person should contact their healthcare provider or seek medical attention.

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). To report non-compliance call 3-1-1 or visit www.epstrong.org.

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