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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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COVID-19 Update

City Reports Large Increase, Two Deaths

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 **12**. Both patients are males with underlying health conditions, one in his 70s and the other in his 90s.

El Paso is also reporting **74** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's total number to **780**. Positive cases in El Paso County include 416 females and 364 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 36 patients who are hospitalized, and 16 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. We are also extremely disappointed to report another large increase in the number of positive cases," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. "The public must remember there is no vaccine for this disease; which is why we continue to stress that each person must take responsibility and follow the local directive. Everyone should strictly adhere to the directive by staying home and not go out unless it is for essential purposes. If you must go out wear a face covering and continue to wash your hands often with soap and water."

Public health officials continue to remind residents that the Stay Home, Work Safe order remains in effect. Face coverings, such as bandanas, homemade cloth masks or scarves, should be worn over the nose and mouth when out in public and must 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). For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

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