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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Officials Urge Residents to Abide by Directive

EL PASO, Texas— The City of El Paso Public Health Department is reporting **25** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's cumulative number to **986**, the number of deaths remains at **22**.

To-date **455** people have recovered from COVID-19; consequently, there are **509** active cases within the county. Positive cases in El Paso County include 519 females and 467 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 61 patients who are hospitalized, and 39 of those hospitalized are currently in ICU.

"We need residents to understand that this virus does not discriminate, it attacks all ages and we need everybody to adhere and abide by our directive," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. "If you do not need to be out of your home, don't! You are putting yourself and your loved ones at risk. People are dying and others are in the ICU. Don't think this can't happen to you or the ones you love; practice social distancing as best you can, wear your face covering when out in public and wash your hands with soap and water!"

The City and County of El Paso prohibit public and private social gatherings of any number of people occurring outside or inside a single household or dwelling unit is prohibited. **This means visiting your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or friends who do not live in same household as you is prohibited as a preventative measure to stop COVID-19 from spreading.**

A face covering is not required on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or exercising outdoors and not within 6 feet of any other individual not from the same household.

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.

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.

Residents are encouraged to report non-compliance by calling the police department non-emergency at (915) 832-4400. Anyone with questions about the directive can call 3-1-1. Health questions about COVID-19 can be made by calling the 21-COVID hotline which 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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