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**NEWS
RELEASE**

06 / 05 / 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

City Reports One Death, Cluster Increases Cases

EL PASO, Texas— The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting **one (1)** COVID-19 death and a triple-digit spike in positive cases, due in part to the cluster seen at a local correctional-detention facility.

The 90th death is a female in her 20s with underlying health conditions.

El Paso is reporting **144** new COVID-19 cases, bringing the county’s cumulative total to **3,213** cases. To-date 2,133 people have recovered from COVID-19; and so there are 990 active cases within the county.

DPH, which is in the process of evaluating the data, reports that about half of today’s cases are associated with a cluster seen at a local correctional-detention facility. A cluster is a collection of two (2) or more cases of the virus in the same area at the same time. The DPH and Office of Emergency Management is working on updating the previously provided breakdown of clusters for the community.

For a comprehensive list of COVID-19 data visit the [COVID-19 Data page](http://www.epstrong.org) found at www.epstrong.org.

“Every death is not just a number. Each of these individuals are someone’s loved one and we grieve with them for their loss,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Local Health Authority. “What might be concerning for some is the age of this patient. Up to now, the majority of our deaths have been older persons, while our youth seem to be mildly impacted. However, this young woman had underlying medical conditions, which is a common factor for many of our deaths. Our health status does affect the capacity of our bodies to combat not only this virus, but many diseases. Which is why we must take the necessary precautions to take care of ourselves and our loved ones, especially those at higher risk.”

Health officials, once again, strongly advise the public to continue practicing preventive measures such as observing social distancing, wearing a face covering, staying home if you are sick, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water. 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.

Infected persons with little to no symptoms can still spread the virus to others and the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if the person is one of our most vulnerable residents such as our seniors, people with underlying health conditions and those who are immunocompromised.

Anyone with health questions about COVID-19 can call the 21-COVID hotline (915) 212-6843, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

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