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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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COVID-19 UPDATE

City Urges Residents to Celebrate Mother’s Day Virtually

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting **46** new positive COVID-19 cases bringing the county’s total number to **1,322**, the number of deaths remains at **32**.

To-date **672** people have recovered from COVID-19; consequently, there are **618** active cases within the county. Positive cases in El Paso County include 690 females and 632 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are 82 patients hospitalized, and 40 of those are currently in ICU. It is estimated that as of today more than 12,000 tests have been performed.

“We want to again remind the community to keep our mother’s safe this Mother’s Day,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. “Tomorrow is a day that we celebrate our mothers, but we have to remember that being in close contact with them places them in danger of getting this deadly virus. Remember that seniors are more susceptible to the dangers of this deadly virus. Don’t go visit your mom in-person. Do not have physical contact with her, but find different and creative ways to connect and celebrate with her.”

With few exceptions, the majority of COVID-19 patients who have died in El Paso County have been seniors who are the most vulnerable members of our community. It is important to remind everyone that COVID-19 infections can be prevented by staying home and keeping your distance from others that do not live in your immediate household.

Dr. Ocaranza reminds the public that whether you have symptoms or not, you may have the virus and not know it. We know now that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is asymptomatic, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in the amended directive, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, especially those who are the most vulnerable. This is why it is crucial to remain distant from anybody not living in the same household and wearing a face covering.

Residents are encouraged to report non-compliance by calling the El Paso Police Department non-emergency at (915) 832-4400. **Any violation to the amended Emergency Directive will be issued a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.** Anyone with questions about the local 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 referrals to services, contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6). For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

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