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RELEASE**

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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Spike in Deaths, Health Officials Urge Community to Practice Safety Precautions

**EL PASO, Texas**—Today the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting **fourteen (14)** deaths and **340** new COVID-19 positive cases.

All the patients had underlying health conditions. They include:

- 2 females in their 70s
- 1 male in his 70s
- 1 female in her 80s
- 4 males in their 80s
- 4 females in their 90s
- 2 males in their 90s

Health officials advised they are continuing to investigate the latest increases, and initial reports indicate the majority is due to community spread, meaning the source of infection is unknown.

The cumulative number of positive cases now stands at **10,638**, of which **6,757**—or **63.5 percent**—have recovered. There are currently **3,708** active cases.

“We continue to be saddened by the ongoing loss of lives, and send our deepest condolences to the family members of these fourteen individuals,” said City-County Local Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. “We are also very concerned by the spike in new cases and the number of people requiring hospitalization seen over the last several days. We continue to remind everyone that the best tool we have to slow down the spread of this virus is prevention.”

The City’s epidemiology team, including contact tracing, are conducting ongoing investigations in an effort to slow the spread from those currently and potentially infected, and to inform the public about other public health prevention measures implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Health officials urge residents to stay home if possible, but if you must go out it is essential to practice social distancing, wear a face cover, frequently wash your hands with soap and water and if feeling even mildly under the weather resident’s should stay home.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 and so, at this time, the best way to prevent contracting the virus is to avoid exposure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the virus mainly spreads via person-to-person contact:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet);
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks;
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby and possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

For more information, visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org).

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