

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

June 19, 2020 / 1100 hours / (11 am)

For Immediate Release:

Today we have a special testing team in Matagorda County. This team is only testing the people involved with the Bay City Jr. High School.

The Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center has confirmed that we will have an “open to the public” testing site here on Wednesday and Thursday, next week, June 24, and 25th 2020. This team is from the State of Texas and will be testing between the hours of 9am and 6pm. They will be located at the Bay City Civic Center, located at 201 7th Street, across highway 35 from the BC High School.

As soon as we have permission to announce the registration phone numbers we will release them to the public.

Matagorda County EOC has been informed that we have an additional eight (8) new cases of COVID-19.

The Matagorda Hospital District reports 18 cases are pending and we continue to report zero seeking treatment in the Matagorda Regional Medical Center.

#98) We have a male between the ages of 50 and 60 years old and is recovering at home.

#99) We have a female between the ages of 5 and 10 years old and is recovering at home.

#100) We have a male between the ages of 30 and 40 years old and is recovering at home.

#101) We have a female between the ages of 30 and 40 years old and is recovering at home.

#102) We have a male between the ages of 20 and 30 years old and is recovering at home.

#103) We have a female between the ages of 20 and 30 years old and is recovering at home.

#104) We have a female between the ages of 30 and 40 years old and is recovering at home.

#105) We have a male between the ages of 20 and 30 years old and is recovering at home.

The Palacios Community Medical Center reports 32 negative and four (4) pending Covid-19 cases.

Matagorda County currently has 105 positive cases, of which 52 are recovered. Matagorda County’s number of active cases is now 48.

The positive cases continue to be located in the communities of Bay City, Palacios, Van Vleck, Sargent, Markham and Matagorda.

The daily numbers are being posted on the Matagorda Regional Medical Center dashboard.

<https://www.matagordaregional.org/covid19>

What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing is a little like detective work: Trained staff interview people who have been diagnosed with a contagious disease to figure out who they may have recently been in contact with. Then, they go tell those people they may have been exposed, sometimes encouraging them to quarantine themselves to prevent spreading the disease any further. Think of it as part public health work, and part investigation.

The technique is a “cornerstone” of preventative medicine, says Dr. Laura Breeher, medical director of occupational health services at the Mayo Clinic. “Contact tracing, it’s having a moment of glory right now with COVID because of the crucial importance of identifying those individuals who have been exposed quickly and isolating or quarantining them,” she says.

How does contact tracing work?

Once someone has been confirmed to be infected with a virus, such as through a positive COVID-19 test, contact tracers try to track down others who have had recent prolonged exposure to that person when they may have been infectious. Typically, that exposure means being within 6 feet of the person for more than 10 minutes, says Dr. Breeher, though in a health care setting, such as a hospital, the bar is lowered to five minutes.

Healthcare workers then make an effort to reach out to every one of those contacts, tell them that they may have been exposed, and giving those instructions on what to do next. That may include telling them about possible symptoms or directing them to self-isolate.

What are the limitations of contact tracing?

For one, contact tracing is a laborious process. Interviewing infectious patients and reaching out to dozens of contacts takes time. For that reason, contact tracing works best when there are low levels of infection in a community, says Dr. Frank Esper, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital. “When you get to a point where there is a lot of people who are sickened with a particular disease, it quickly overwhelms the health departments’ response to be able to contact trace all those individuals,” he says.

With a virus like COVID-19, which spreads through the air, things can get complicated quickly. Contact tracers might end up trying to find those who sat near an infected individual on a plane or a bus, for instance, even if the sick person never met them. That’s a radically different task from contact tracing with a sexually transmitted infection like HIV, which tends to involve a much shorter, more well-defined list of contacts for investigators. Health care workers may also have trouble getting in touch with contacts if phone records aren’t up to date, or if an infected patient is already too sick to help identify their recent contacts.

