

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

March 24, 2020 1600 hours 4pm

For immediate Release:

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center was informed on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 345pm, that Matagorda County Officials confirmed two additional positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Matagorda County involving:

- A female between the ages of 50 and 60 who is seeking additional treatment for conditions presumed to be related to the COVID-19 virus.
- A female between the ages of 85 and 95 who is seeking additional treatment for conditions presumed to be related to the COVID-19 virus.

We were reminded that MCHD is no longer the sole source of COVID-19 testing and case information in Matagorda County. This is because COVID-19 testing is being performed by other health organizations and independent physicians throughout our community. To this end, the information reported in this release and in all future releases regarding COVID-19 should be viewed as a contribution to a total number and not the total number itself.

Patient and case-specific information disclosed in this release represents the extent to which any MCHD official and the MC EOC can appropriately respond. Additional information, if available, may be requested from the Texas Department of State Health Services, which serves as Matagorda County's Health Department.

Per the State's protocol, the State investigates all positive cases.

The Matagorda County Emergency Management team continues to work closely with the State of Texas Emergency Operations Center, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Matagorda County Hospital District, the Palacios Medical Center, MEHOP and our local physicians. We are all working 24-7 to protect Matagorda County Residents.

This brings the total of positive COVID-19 cases in Matagorda County to eight.

We continue to work for the safety and health of our citizens and visitors, here in Matagorda County.

Please pay attention to the published guidelines from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), which are everyday actions to stop the spread of any respiratory virus, including COVID-19:

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

It is also suggested that we practice "social distancing," which means staying away from other people, avoiding crowds and minimizing physical contact so that you do not spread illness. This means currently avoiding mass gatherings, skipping the usual handshake, and remaining six feet away from others.

See the CDC and DSHS websites to prepare your home and help prevent the spread of COVID-19