# Press Release March 23, 2020

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

March 23, 2020 / 1900 hours / (7PM)

For immediate Release:

Members of the Matagorda County Emergency Management team was present when Bay City Mayor Robert Nelson held a Facebook live event.

*Good afternoon citizens of the City of Bay City, TX,*

*Today we sent an employee home with a fever. The employee has reached out to their physician and at this time we have no further information.*

*Out of an abundance of caution we are closing city hall and for those employees that can will be working from home. We have rolled our phones over and will be available by phone and email.*

*We are in uncharted territory and the landscape is constantly changing. As such we must be very flexible and change with it as the circumstances dictate.*

*Governor Abbott has taken steps to curtail the spread of COVID-19 in the larger cities by mandating a shelter in place. And he has provided authority to local communities, i.e., Judges and Mayors to make that decision in their own communities.*

*I do not want to order a shelter-in-place, but I am asking all our citizens that are non-essential to voluntarily shelter-in-place. If we don't adhere to this, we will mandate a shelter-in-place. Essential employees, like medical staff, pharmacies, grocery stores, banks restaurants can remain open in order to service the citizens of Bay City. I understand that this puts a burden on many of us. However, if we want to stop the spread and protect ourselves, we must take strong measures.*

*I would like to explain what shelter-in- place means. You do not have to remain in your homes you can go for a walk or a drive or even go to a park, you can order for pickup or delivery, but we must practice social distancing while participating in these types of activities. The goal for each of us is to protect ourselves, our families and our community.*

*We currently have 6 cases in Matagorda County, unfortunately including 1 death and I would like for each of us to unify and help fight the spread.*

As of 3-23-2020 Matagorda County has six positive results for COVID-19.

We are working hard to get updated numbers from the 5 testing locations.

"If you start to experience COVID 19 symptoms, please call your primary care physician for further instructions "said Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald.

All patients meeting State requirements for testing are directed to self-quarantine at home immediately regardless of when the test result is expected.

**We would like to take this opportunity to inform our citizens that the high number of pending test results may soon give the appearance of an unexpected "spike," or an unexplainable increase in positive cases. This is not true**

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.

Please practice good hygiene by washing your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, sneeze and cough into a tissue and disinfect frequently used items and surfaces regularly.

Should you need any additional information, please feel free to call 211 and you will be able to ask questions.

If you have questions, please email covid19@co.matagorda.tx.us

As always, we will provide you the latest information as soon as we receive messages from the State or our local officials.

Visit the Matagorda County web site for the posted releases
http://www.co.matagorda.tx.us/page/matagorda.Emergency