Saturday Night Press Release March 21, 2020

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

March 21, 2020 2100 hours (9PM)

For immediate Release:

The Matagorda County Emergency Operations Center understands that we now have over a hundred test results that are pending, now that we have local doctor's preforming the test.

It is important that our citizens have a way of getting tested if they think they are showing symptoms of the Covid-19 Virus.

Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald is working closely with the State of Texas and private labs to get the results as fast as possible.

"The Matagorda County test results are important to our citizens" said County Judge Nate McDonald. He continued, "we understand the need for an orderly workflow for the Labs"

The Matagorda County Emergency Management Team understands as more residents meet State criteria for testing, the results are taking longer to be verified. At this time, some results are taking up to 10 days to be verified and reported. State labs and commercial labs both prioritize high risk patients, patients who have been hospitalized, and exposed healthcare workers.

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.

It is important to note that a delay in test results does not change the outcome. All patients meeting State requirements for testing are directed to self-quarantine at home immediately regardless of when the test result is expected. County Judge Nate McDonald added "However, if you start to experience COVID 19 symptoms, please call your primary care physician for further instructions ".

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.

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

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.

The County's top priority is the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors and we feel that taking these precautionary measures will help in that endeavor.

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

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