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COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, Zapata County

Zapata, Texas—Zapata County has confirmed 2 new cases of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This raises the total number of positive cases in Zapata County to 3.

The City of Laredo Health Department announced today that two females (ages 54 and 25) have tested positive for COVID-19. For patient privacy and in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA law, no further information about the individuals will be publicly released. However, both have been isolated since testing and are recovering well at home.

To date, over 70 residents of Zapata County have been tested by the City of Laredo Health Department in conjunction with Mary Plattner FNP, who has conducted a total of 65 tests at the Zapata Primary Care facility. Of the 72 tests conducted by both the Laredo Health Department and Zapata Primary Care, 10 have come back negative, 3 have come back positive, and 59 are still pending.

Zapata County is working closely with the City of Laredo Health Department who will be conducting a contact investigation for prevention. If the health department has not contacted you there is no need to take any action at this time.

I want to remind you that if someone is sick they need to stay home. In households with a positive case, there should be one designated caregiver. Other family members must stay apart while practicing good hygiene and social distancing. The individual that has tested positive must be isolated, wear a mask and refrain from gathering with other family members. The caregiver should also wear a mask when providing care. This is extremely important as evidence points to strong clustering among positive persons. Stay home if you are sick and call your doctor. Do not go to the office, call your doctor first. If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Please continue to do your part in preventing the spread of all diseases by following the guidelines below:

- Follow the County order to stay at home and practice social distancing.
- Wash your hands often
- Wear a mask if possible
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you're sick
- Cover all coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently-touched surfaces

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