Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

March 27, 2020 0930 hours (930 am)

For Immediate Release:

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center was informed on Friday, March 27, 2020, Matagorda County Officials confirmed one additional positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Matagorda County involving:

• A female between the ages of 50 to 55 who is isolated at home. No travel was reported.

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

As previously stated, a backlog of tests has necessitated a change in the way patient information is collected, verified, and authorized for public release. While these changes mean that a minimal amount of case-related information will be released to the public.

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 Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center personal 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 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