

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

March 31, 2020 / 1300hours / (1 pm)

For immediate Release:

We continue to work with every testing site to keep the public informed concerning the number of positive cases.

Remember last week when we reported that the high number of pending test results may soon give the appearance of an unexpected "spike," or an unexplainable increase in positive cases. We are working with the private providers to get the most up to date information concerning positive cases. We can report that an additional 6 positive cases have been added to the Matagorda Regional Medical Center web page.

The current number of positive cases in Matagorda County is 27.

For a dashboard of all positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Matagorda County or if you would like more information on the cases please visit:

<https://www.matagordaregional.org/covid19>

Again these numbers are provided to the Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center from the different medical stations.

Late yesterday afternoon, Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald issued a Voluntary Shelter in Place Order and a Mandatory Teen Curfew.

Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, Bay City Mayor Robert Nelson, and Palacios Mayor Glen Smith are working closely with each other to ensure the health and safety of our citizens and visitors.

The intent of the Voluntary Shelter in Place Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people voluntarily self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Tasks essential to your health and safety or to the health and safety of family or house-hold members are allowed under this Order, examples are foods and medicines. This Order also allows workers to report to work and for you to take care of family members or pets in another house-hold.

All patients meeting State requirements for testing are directed to self-quarantine at home immediately regardless of when the test result is expected. The medical staff at the hospital stresses to those positive cases, you must protect anyone living in the same house. The covid-19 germs can last up to 3 or 4 days on a flat surface. Clean regularly and please protect your loved ones.

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), the Matagorda County Hospital District and the Palacios Medical Center.

Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D., was born and raised in Matagorda County and is an award-winning author, researcher and lecturer, is president of NTI Upstream and a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine in Chicago. He said, “we all need three things: structure, consistency, and predictability. But these are exactly what the world is lacking right now. We’re in the middle of a national health crisis, and anxiety levels are rising. We all feel it, but children and teens are especially vulnerable to their parents’ moods and can become hypervigilant to changes in their immediate world. Add to this health crisis the fact that many families across the nation are sheltering in place and are facing economic uncertainty, children are home from school, parents are trying to get work done from home, and there is little opportunity to relieve the creeping claustrophobia many families are feeling”. Please remember those in our community that might need some reassuring words or a phone call.

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

As it has been for its 60+ year history, Palacios Community Medical Center is open and operating and continuing to provide for the Palacios and Southwest Matagorda County communities, including through the COVID-19 pandemic.

PCMC continues providing the full range of healthcare and medical services – In-patient and swing bed services are still operating; Palacios Medical Clinic is open and seeing patients; diagnostic laboratory and x-ray testing is still available, and, the 24/365 ER can and will provide for any emergent needs. On top of all this, PCMC/PMC has introduced 24/365 access via telemedicine – see our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/PalaciosCommunityMedicalCenter/ for information on how to connect with your hometown providers through this new technology. Additionally, PCMC can provide COVID-19 testing with most results back within 48 hours, and, is finalizing the installation of negative air rooms to support caring for affected patients.

PCMC will continue updating the City and County regarding suspected cases and testing outcomes for the County to share as appropriate – PCMC is Caring for Life.

If you have questions for the Emergency Management Team, please email covid19@co.matagorda.tx.us

Visit the Matagorda County web site for any posted releases.

<http://www.co.matagorda.tx.us/page/matagorda.Emergency>

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.

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.

Continue to 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.