

# Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

## May 10, 2020 / 1200 hours / (Noon)

For immediate Release:

The MCHD officials are again reporting **no new cases of COVID-19**.

On Friday the Palacios Community Medical Center reported 17 negative cases with 0 pending cases.

The State sponsored drive-thru COVID-19 test site that was conducted on May 7, 2020 in Matagorda County reported testing 49 people.

The cases added today are not related to tests conducted during Matagorda County's second drive-up test initiative. We expect all drive-up test results to be available by Friday, May 15, 2020.

These numbers will be combined and included in daily totals just like all test site information in Matagorda County is combined and reported.

Our county total is 64 positive cases, of which 34 are recovered and 5 have passed away. Matagorda County's number of active cases is now 25.

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>

The Communities where we have positive COVID-19 cases remains the same:

Bay City, Wadsworth, Palacios, Matagorda, Van Vleck, and Blessing.

### **Outdoor in-person ceremonies are currently permitted for counties as follows:**

An outdoor ceremony may take place in any county on or after June 1. Be advised, this permission is subject to change as underlying public health conditions change.

### **Outdoor ceremonies must meet the following requirements:**

- School systems must cap the number of total participants (inclusive of students, families, and staff) to a level that can be managed in the outdoor venue to maximize social distancing, both during the event and during entry and exit.
- School employees and school facilities must comply with the guidance for School Employees in School Facilities except as authorized by this guidance.
- Students and parents (or legal guardians) must comply with the guidance on Student Non-Instructional Visits except as authorized by this guidance.

- Schools using non-school facilities to perform graduation or end-of-year promotion ceremonies must ensure compliance as if the non-school facility were a school and as authorized by this guidance.
- Prior to attending the ceremony, participating students and attending family members must be screened (via questioning) by school system employees for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - o Cough
  - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - o Chills
  - o Repeated shaking with chills
  - o Muscle pain
  - o Headache
  - o Sore throat
  - o Loss of taste or smell
  - o Diarrhea
  - o Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - o Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 if exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within the last 14 days Those found with any of these signs or symptoms must be excluded from the activity.
- Graduates or promoting students may only be brought together for one event per class or breakout group. No rehearsals will be permitted.
- Keep 6 feet or more of spacing between all participants, except that members of the same household (five individuals or fewer, excluding the graduate if seated with the household) may be allowed to sit together in the audience but must be at least 6 feet away from any other family group at all times.
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations must be available at all venue entrances.
- School employees at the ceremony must be limited to the minimum number needed to logistically support the ceremony.
- Diplomas or other documents may not be handed from person to person unless gloves are worn by those distributing diplomas or other documents to students.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many institutions across the state, consider having all employees, students, or other visitors wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) while inside any facilities, or if they will come within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of

that person's household, except when photos are taken. If available, they should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

- Care should be taken and effort must be made to mitigate virus exposure when participants come into contact with documents and other objects such as diplomas and awards.
- School employees must be stationed appropriately to ensure compliance with all requirements and to limit congregation.
- A robust communication plan must be in place to address steps to be taken before, during, and after the ceremony to ensure that participants are aware of safety protocols at the ceremony and explicit instructions to graduates or promoting students not to congregate outside of school sponsored ceremonies or events.
- School officials should communicate with students' families prior to the ceremony to determine how many family members will be attending so they can plan appropriately to implement social distancing measures, logistics, and other safety measures.
- Assigned seating for members of the audience should be considered to more efficiently ensure separation between household groups.
- Specific plans should be developed for arrivals and departures to ensure appropriate social distancing.