

Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center Press Release

May 9, 2020 / 1200 hours / (Noon)

For immediate Release:

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

Yesterday Palacios Community Medical Center reported 17 negative cases with 0 pending cases.

The State sponsored drive-thru COVID-19 test site in Matagorda County located at the Bay City Civic Center 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.

With many of our local businesses re-opening we are pleased to share a quote from a local business owner.

Donny Trans, owner of Trans Restaurant in Palacios, Texas said. "We're still doing OK. We're assessing daily on when to open the dining room. Our customers have seemed to transition well to the carry out way of life. We are excited to open our doors soon and see their smiling faces."

Strategic Partnerships reports the state expanded the list of businesses that may reopen this week to include salons and wedding venues. The opening of office buildings, manufacturing services, and exercise facilities will be allowed on May 18.

Per Gov. Greg Abbott's May 5 announcement, wedding venues were allowed to immediately open. Weddings held indoors other than at a church, congregation, or house of worship must limit occupancy to 25 percent. Wedding reception services may also resume, but facilities must limit their occupancy to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy. These occupancy limits do not apply to the outdoor areas of a wedding reception or to outdoor wedding receptions.

Beginning May 8, cosmetology and tanning salons, hair and nail salons, barbershops, and other establishments where licensed cosmetologists or barbers work, may open, but they must ensure at least 6 feet of social distancing between operating work stations.

Also starting May 8, swimming pools may open subject to certain limitations, including on their occupancy or operating levels.

On May 18, office buildings may open with the greater of five or less individuals or 25 percent of the total office workforce while following social distancing guidelines.

Gyms, exercise facilities, and exercise classes may also open on May 18, but must operate at 25 percent occupancy. Locker rooms and shower facilities will remain closed, but restrooms may open.

Non-essential manufacturing services may also open on May 18, but facilities must limit their occupancy to 25 percent.

During the May 5 press conference, state authorities provided details on the newly formed Surge Response Teams. These teams are led by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and will serve nursing homes, prisons, packing plants, and other facilities that experience flare ups of COVID-19 by providing personal protective equipment, testing supplies, onsite staffing, and assessment assistance.

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