

Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez County Judge

David L. Fuentes *Commissioner, Precinct 1*

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu *Commissioner, Precinct 2*

Joe M. Flores Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres Commissioner, Precinct 4

OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE RICHARD F. CORTEZ

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NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, April 13, 2020

Eight more test positive in Hidalgo County for COVID-19 virus; 21 released from isolation

EDINBURG – As eight more people in Hidalgo County tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, 21 people were released from isolation, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez said Monday. The eight additional cases brings the total number of positive cases in Hidalgo County to 198 people.

A total of 30 people have now officially been released from isolation, meaning they have been symptom-free for ten days including three days in which they had no fever, Judge Cortez said. "This is encouraging news," he said of those released from isolation. "But we cannot let our guard down. We must continue to protect ourselves by staying home and avoiding crowds."

Underscoring Judge Cortez's caution is the fact that a total of 32 people have been hospitalized after testing positive for the disease. Six of those people are in the intensive care unit.

A total of 1,455 tests have now been administered in Hidalgo County. Along with the 198 positive cases, there have been 1,190 negative cases with 75 test results still pending.

The mayors of each of the cities affected by the latest round of positive cases have been notified, along with the Hidalgo County Commissioners, Judge Cortez said. Each person testing positive as well as all family members living in the same household have been ordered to self-isolate. There will be no further information available today.

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Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at <u>www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus</u>