



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**

Public Affairs Division

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NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Seventeen people in Hidalgo County Test Positive for COVID-19

EDINBURG – Seventeen more people in Hidalgo County have tested positive for COVID-19 in what health experts are now calling clear evidence that community spread has begun, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez said Thursday. A total of 79 Hidalgo County residents have now tested positive.

Hidalgo County epidemiologists, who investigate all COVID-19 cases, had concluded that most of the earlier positive cases could likely be traced to travel in infected areas. But more recent cases suggest that clusters of new cases can now be traced to those people who had tested positive earlier.

"It's the natural evolution of the disease," said Dr. Ivan Melendez, the Hidalgo County health authority. "That's why it is so important to stay home now. What we do today will be reflected over the next ten days to two weeks."

Officials have been able to track as many as eight people who had direct contact with earlier infected patients, said Eddie Olivarez, Chief Administrator for Hidalgo County's Health and Human Services. "We are now seeing more cases because we are looking more."

- MORE -

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 www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus



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Each of the 17 people who learned of a positive test on Thursday were ordered to self-isolate in their homes. A total of 10 people from earlier cases required hospitalization within the last 24 hours. Three of them have been discharged indicating their condition has improved, health officials said. The mayors where each of the patients live have been notified.

"These growing numbers have long been expected by health experts," Judge Cortez said. "The same health experts have consistently said that the best way to protect yourself from this disease is to stay home and practice good hygiene."

- MORE -

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Judge Cortez also noted that another four children have tested positive bringing the total number of children who are four years old and under to six. "This is one of the most distressing statistic," Judge Cortez said. "We need to be especially mindful of our children and our elderly by keeping them at home and away from others."

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Those who tested positive include:

Age	Gender	City
32	Female	Pharr
24	Male	Weslaco
1	Male	Pharr
44	Male	McAllen
4	Female	Pharr
39	Female	McAllen
48	Male	Undisclosed *
29	Male	Weslaco
51	Female	Donna
34	Female	Edinburg
29	Female	Donna
1	Female	Edinburg
33	Male	Edinburg
4	Male	Edinburg
51	Male	Donna
23	Male	Donna
59	Female	Mercedes

* City is not disclosed because it is too small and the patient may be easily identified, a violation of federal law.

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