



PRESS RELEASE

Reference: COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, Willacy County

On April 24, 2020, two (2) new positive lab results for COVID-19 were received bringing the total to twelve (12) confirmed cases in Willacy County. The cases include a female in her 50s and a male in his 50s. One of the new cases is community acquired, and the other new case is a contact to a positive case. The patients are currently isolated. DSHS is supporting Willacy County in identifying any close contacts of the patients so they can be isolated and monitored for symptoms.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Public Health Region 11 is reminding the public that it is conducting contact investigation on persons who have tested positive to determine possible exposure to others. If the health department has not contacted you, there is no need to take any action at this time.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Public Health Region 11 and Willacy County continue to work together against COVID-19. We are vigilant and reporting results for COVID-19 in the region. We are also working together to educate and promote social distancing and staying at home.

In order to share facts and not fear, we continue to emphasize the importance of prevention and there are simple steps everyone can take to help prevent spreading the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away
- Stay at home and stop the spread of coronavirus

The public can find up-to-date coronavirus information and what to do if you're sick, testing information at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

Sincerely,

Dr. Emilie Prot, DO, MPH
Regional Medical Director, Region 11
Department of State Health Services