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**NEWS
RELEASE**

07 / 23 / 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Community Spread Leads to Spike in Cases and Deaths

EL PASO, Texas—Today the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is reporting **fifteen (15)** deaths and **204** new COVID-19 positive cases.

All the patients had underlying health conditions. They include:

- 1 male in his 50s
- 1 female in her 50s
- 3 females in their 60s
- 1 male in his 60s
- 4 males in their 70s
- 2 males in their 80s
- 1 female in her 80s
- 2 males in their 90s

“We are saddened by the loss of lives due to this pandemic,” said City-County Local Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. “The current trend we are seeing is not a positive one as the hospitalizations continue to be on the rise and unfortunately people will continue to succumb to the complications of this disease that has been attacking our most vulnerable members of our community. Three main things that have proven to mitigate the spread of this virus is wearing face coverings, social distancing and proper hygiene. People should be taking this pandemic seriously and following our recommendations and orders.”

Health officials noted that the fifteen deaths did not occur on the same day, but rather between the first and third week of July. The cumulative number of positive cases now stands at **12,501**, of which **8,726** have recovered. There are currently **3,564** active cases.

The community is reminded that there is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Additionally, it is estimated that about 20 percent of the total positive cases are asymptomatic, meaning the COVID-19 positive individuals showed no symptoms and, if they did not follow preventive measures, they may have infected those around them.

Health officials urge residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, to remain isolated at home and for all in the same household to remain in quarantine; stating that is the only way we, together will be able to slow down the spread of the disease and protect our vulnerable loved ones.

For more COVID-19 information to include testing, data and prevention, visit www.epstrong.org.

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