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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports two new cases of COVID-19

DeWitt County is reporting its sixteenth and seventeenth cases of COVID-19. The new patients were tested on May 4 at the Mobile Test Site in Yoakum. Case number 16 is a female in her mid-forties and a resident of the city of Yoakum. Case number 17 is a male in his early sixties and a resident of the city of Cuero. Both cases appear to be the result of community spread. Both patients are under orders to isolate themselves at home. The last reported case of COVID-19 was announced on the 23rd of April.

A total of seventeen cases have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. Eleven patients claiming to be residents of DeWitt County have fully recovered from the disease. Currently, four patients are under orders to isolate at home. One patient is being treated at a medical facility in Victoria. One patient with underlying medical issues died in April following a diagnosis of COVID-19.

In an effort to slow the spread of this infectious disease, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued Executive Orders during this period of emergency. In EO GA-14 he directs citizens to “stay home” and “stay safe.” More recent Executive Orders are directed at reopening the Texas economy in a safe and deliberate manner.

Individuals may be exposed to COVID-19 and be infectious even when no symptoms are present. If you believe you have been exposed, monitor yourself closely for symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath for 14 days after the exposure. If you experience any of these symptoms and do not need urgent medical attention, isolate at home and contact your healthcare provider.

If an individual knows they have been exposed, they should not go to work. If a fever and cough are present, they should isolate themselves from others at home and monitor symptoms.

Minimizing exposure is especially important for people who are 65 or older or who have an underlying health condition like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, high blood pressure or

cancer. People in those groups have a higher risk of developing severe complications if they do get COVID-19, and the safest thing for them during an outbreak will be to stay home as much as possible and minimize close contact with other people. To get ready, they should talk to their doctor about getting additional prescription medications and have enough household items and groceries on hand to stay home as needed.

The judge and emergency management personnel are communicating daily with state officials and regional leaders about the spread of the COVID-19 virus and referring callers to the official websites of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services. These websites are great resources for the general public according to Judge Fowler.

The public can find up-to-date coronavirus information at the Texas Department for State Health Services dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus and the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> and DeWitt County at www.co.dewitt.tx.us and on the Facebook Page of DeWitt County Office of Emergency Management.

The governor's office is also providing information and links to the Executive Orders through the website www.governor.texas.gov

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