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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports new cases of COVID-19, additional recoveries and four deaths

County health officials are reporting **135** additional (confirmed) cases of the novel coronavirus and **14** additional recoveries since Wednesday. **Four** additional deaths are reported. Altogether, **eleven (11)** county residents have passed away after contracting the novel coronavirus.

The new confirmed cases are a mixture of community spread, household contagion, and an outbreak at a nursing home. Results from testing performed earlier in the month of July are being received and investigations are ongoing.

One Hundred five (105) of the new cases reported today live in the Cuero zip code. **Thirteen (13)** live in the Yoakum zip code. **Fourteen (14)** live in the Yorktown zip code. **Two (2)** individuals indicate they live in the Nordheim zip code, and **one (1)** indicates living in the Meyersville zip code. Due to privacy concerns the county will no longer release demographic information that might lead to the identification of a person infected with COVID-19.

A total of **442 cases** have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. **Two hundred seventy-four (274)** individuals, including the 135 newly confirmed cases, are isolating at home. **Twelve (12)** are considered inpatients of medical facilities. **One hundred forty-four (144)** have recovered.

Although the active case count in DeWitt County has escalated recently, the statistical proportion of total active cases is approximately one percent (**.01375**) of the total county population. Expressed another way, there is one active case per **72** county residents. County officials expect another significant increase in confirmed cases when results from testing in Yorktown is known.

Throughout DSHS Region 8 which covers 28 counties east and west of San Antonio and includes an estimated population of 3.1 million people, a total of **37,117** cases have been confirmed since tracking began. More than **18,000** of the individuals diagnosed with the novel coronavirus have recovered. The agency reports **401** deaths of COVID-19 infected patients in the region, but does not distinguish whether the individuals had comorbidities. The Region 8 information is current as of July 21, 2020.

More than 70 percent of the confirmed cases and approximately 65 percent of the deaths attributable to COVID-19 have occurred in Bexar County where the county judge has issued an executive order

requiring retail business employees and customers to wear face masks when social distancing is not possible.

In an effort to slow the spread of this infectious disease, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued Executive Orders during this period of emergency. His latest executive order is a mandate to wear facial coverings in public places where social distancing cannot be accomplished. The Executive Order imposes a monetary fine on violators. The Cuero city council rescinded its mandatory face mask order during its meeting on July 13, 2020.

The county 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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