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07/08/2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports new cases of COVID-19 and recoveries

County health officials are reporting **21 new cases** of coronavirus. All of the infections are attributable to community spread, including places of work, or household contagion. **Fifteen** live in the Cuero zip code. **Three** live in the Yoakum zip code. **Three** live in the Yorktown 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. Due to delays in receiving timely laboratory test results and difficulties experienced with the contact tracing of individuals with a positive diagnosis, this report may not align with the reports generated by state agencies.

A total of **131 cases** have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. **Forty-eight (48)** individuals, including these diagnosed cases, are isolating at home. **Nine (9)** are considered inpatients of medical facilities. **Seventy-one (71)** have recovered. **Three** deaths in the county are attributed to COVID-19 infection of individuals with at least one comorbidity.

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 **20,114** cases have been confirmed since tracking began. More than **8,800** of the individuals diagnosed with the coronavirus have recovered. DSHS Region 8 is tracking **1,257** additional cases that are pending an investigation into the cause of infection. The agency also categorizes "probable" infections. Those numbers are not included in this press release. The agency reports **182** deaths of COVID-19 infected patients in the region, but does not distinguish whether the individuals had comorbidities.

More than 70 percent of the confirmed cases and more than 70 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. Although the active case count in DeWitt County has escalated recently, the statistical proportion of total active cases is less than one-half of one percent **(.0027)** of the total county population. Expressed another way, there is one active case per **365** county residents.

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 adopted a mandatory face mask order during its meeting on July 1, 2020 and it is applicable to commercial entities (employees and patrons) effective 6:00 A.M. on July 3, 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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