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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports additional COVID-19 recoveries

County health officials report that **twenty (20)** county residents previously diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered from the illness. There are **fourteen (14)** additional (confirmed) cases of the novel coronavirus. The death toll stands at **thirty-one (31).**

Seven (7) of the new cases reported today live in the Cuero zip code. **Two (2)** live in the Yoakum zip code. **Three (3)** live in the Yorktown zip code. **Two (2)** are reported in the Nordheim zip code. Due to privacy concerns the county will no longer release demographic information that might lead to the identification of infected individuals.

A total of **713 cases** have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. Currently, **ninety-six (96)** cases are considered active. Of the total, **eighty-seven (87)** individuals are isolating at home. **Nine (9)** are considered inpatients of medical facilities. **Five hundred (586)** have recovered.

Although the active case count in DeWitt County has escalated recently, the statistical proportion of total active cases is approximately one-half of one percent **(.0046)** of the total county population. Expressed another way, there is one active case per **216** county residents.

Throughout DSHS Region 8 which covers **28 counties** east and west of San Antonio and includes an estimated population of **3.1 million people**, there are approximately **2,396** active cases. A total of **54,811** cases have been confirmed since tracking began and **51,110** have recovered. The agency reports **970** deaths of COVID-19 infected patients in the region, but does not distinguish whether the individuals had comorbidities. Based on the current information **94.9 percent** of the diagnosed cases in the region have recovered and **1.7 percent** have died after contracting the virus. Regional information is current through **August 13, 2020.**

Approximately **65 percent** of the confirmed cases and approximately **56 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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