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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports new case of COVID-19

County health officials are reporting the 26th case of COVID-19 in the county. In this instance a 73 year-old nursing home resident tested positive and is isolated. According to nursing home officials the patient has not been in contact with anyone known to have the virus, so additional testing will be conducted in order to exclude a false positive diagnosis. Under a directive authored by Governor Greg Abbott all nursing homes in the state are being tested for COVID-19 infection. Four nursing homes in DeWitt County completed the onsite testing more than one week ago and are awaiting results.

A total of 26 cases have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. Ten, including the most recent diagnosed case, are known to be isolating at home or in a secure facility. Fifteen have recovered. One death in the county is attributed to COVID-19 infection of an individual with a comorbidity.

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

-30-

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