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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports new cases of COVID-19

County health officials are reporting four new cases of coronavirus. Case number 32 is a 72 year-old female with a rural address in the Yoakum zip code. This case is categorized as community spread with unknown origin.

Case number 33 is a 57 year-old male resident of Yoakum who travels in his line of work. His case is also considered as acquired through community spread with unknown origin.

Case number 34 is a 62 year-old male resident of Yoakum. Origin of contact is unknown, but could be community spread through work.

Case number 35 is a 22 year-old female resident of Cuero. Her case is considered as community spread with unknown origin.

All of the newly diagnosed cases are isolated and convalescing at home.

One previously diagnosed case is now considered to be recovered.

A total of 35 cases have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. Seventeen, including these diagnosed cases, are isolating at home or in a secure medical facility. Seventeen 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

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