



DARYL L. FOWLER
County Judge

307 N. Gonzales Street
Cuero, Texas 77954
Ph.: 361-275-0916
Fax: 361-275-0919
daryl.fowler@co.DeWitt.tx.us
blair.duran@co.DeWitt.tx.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports additional COVID-19 infections and recoveries; two deaths

County health officials report that there are **eight (8)** additional (confirmed) cases of the novel coronavirus. **Seven (7)** additional individuals have recovered. Two residents died over the weekend. The death toll stands at **forty-four (44)**. Last Friday's report contained a miscalculation in the number of deaths.

Three (3) new cases are reported in the Cuero zip code. **Two (2)** new patients live in the Yoakum zip code. **Three (3)** new patients live in the Yorktown zip code. The county does not release demographic information that might lead to the identification of infected individuals.

A total of **923 cases** have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. Currently, **fifty-five (55)** cases are considered active. Of the total, **forty-six (46)** individuals are isolating at home. **Nine (9)** are considered inpatients of medical facilities. **Eight hundred twenty-four (824)** have recovered.

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 (**.0026**) of the total county population. Expressed another way, there is one active case per **378** 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**, a total of **64,647** cases have been confirmed since tracking began. The latest report issued by the agency indicates that the region has **4,526** active cases. The agency also reports **1,682** deaths of COVID-19 infected patients in the region, but does not distinguish whether the individuals had comorbidities. Based on the current information, approximately **2.6 percent** of those infected have died after contracting the virus. Information about the number of recovered patients is unavailable in this report. Regional information is current through **September 18, 2020**.

Approximately **63 percent** of the confirmed cases and approximately **60 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 continues to expand

occupancy limits in certain businesses in Texas, as well as, open medical facilities for elective surgery and allow visitation at nursing homes in regions where hospitalization of COVID-19 patients is below a recommended ceiling. The Trauma Service Area (TSA) which includes Victoria and DeWitt Counties is above the ceiling and ineligible for further economic expansion at this present time. The list of trauma service areas can be obtained at www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031.

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

-30-

News Media Contact:

Cyndi Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator, 361-275-0878
Daryl Fowler, DeWitt County Judge, 361-275-0916