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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports additional COVID-19 infections and recoveries

County health officials report that there are **eight (8)** additional (confirmed) cases of the novel coronavirus. **Two (2)** of the individual is located in the Yorktown zip code. **Three (3)** of the individuals are in the Cuero zip code. **Three (3)** individuals live in the Yoakum zip code. **Fifteen (15)** additional individuals have recovered.

Currently, **thirty-eight (38)** cases are considered active. Of the total, **thirty-six (36)** individuals are isolating at home. **Two (2)** are considered an inpatients of medical facility.

A total of **985 cases** have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020. County health officials audited the case number in late September and determined that twenty-nine (29) cases were duplicates and eight (8) cases were in a different county and adjusted the local case count downward. However, DSHS protocols require that the erroneous cases be categorized as "Recovered" rather than deleted. Therefore, the county believes the correct number of recoveries stands at **eight hundred ninety-four (894)**.

Approximately **62 percent** of the **77,409** confirmed cases and approximately **61 percent** of the **1,910** deaths attributable to COVID-19 in DSHS Region 8 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. There are approximately 3.1 million people in the 28 counties that make up Region 8. DSHS data is current through **October 7, 2020**.

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. Trauma Service Area S (TSA-S) which includes Victoria and DeWitt Counties is approaching a level that will allow continued expansion of business services and restaurant activity, and provide for the opening of saloons and bars by October 14, 2020 if hospitalizations continue a downward trend in TSA-S. 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

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