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Laredo Health Department



Public Health
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Date: March 3, 2020
To: Public
From: City of Laredo Health Department
Through: Hector Gonzalez, MD, M.P.H., Health Director
Subject: **Novel Coronavirus Update**

The City of Laredo Health Department wants the public to know that even though San Antonio has a local public health emergency declaration there is no cause for alarm to Laredoans. At this time the new **Coronavirus/CV (COVID-19) continues to be another corona virus that causes a cold like illness that may cause a lower respiratory infection.**

Furthermore, there is no local transmission in Texas, San Antonio or Laredo, all the cases in San Antonio were travel related or from the Diamond Cruise Ship; they are not cases from San Antonio. For Laredoans that may have been at the mall in San Antonio this weekend exposure is at very low risk or none at all. While we don't know all the reasons for the declaration and the exact condition of the person, most persons exposed recover well -- **over 80% have mild symptoms** or are asymptomatic. It is those persons with underlying health conditions and/or elderly that may complicate (most of the sever cases and deaths are elderly and confined to outbreak areas). It is those vulnerable populations (elderly, children under 5 years, those with underlying conditions, pregnant women and those with special needs) that are most at risk of potential complications. Therefore, we have and continue to alert medical personnel, hospitals, and first responders to be ready to address as we are already addressing other respiratory infections (flu, throat and ear infections, etc.).

At some point we will have COVID-19 worldwide, in the United States and in our communities but based on what we know it will be another corona virus.

At this time **COVID-19** continues to cause a *cold-like respiratory* infection:

- fever, cough and may develop shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear within 2 to 14 days after exposure.
- may exhibit lower respiratory symptoms (bronchitis, pneumonia).

While CDC has issued an alert to prepare for local transmission and we are, this is a novel virus that is still evolving and we will continue to monitor and keep you abreast of any change or new information. But at this time it is acting like a seasonal cold like virus. If we get local COVID-19 transmission in the United states or in our cities- **Will this be more severe? Not necessarily since over 80% have mild symptoms** or none at all and will recover.

What we know about COVID-19?

- At this time, it is acting like another cold-like virus
- There is no local transmission (we do have season CV that we have every year, this is not covid-19)

For more information and reporting, please contact the Epidemiology Division at 956-795-4951.