

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

City, County Confirm Two New COVID-19 Related Deaths

LAREDO, Texas—The City of Laredo and Webb County have confirmed the seventh and eighth deaths in Laredo related to COVID-19. The City and County want to express their most sincere condolences to the families and want them to know that our counselors, as well as our support, are available.

A woman in her 90s with underlying health conditions had tested positive for COVID-19 and was being treated at Laredo Medical Center when she died on Saturday, April 11, 2020. Similarly, a man in his 20s with underlying health conditions passed from the disease at Laredo Medical Center late Saturday.

The City of Laredo Health Department reminds the public that the coronavirus can be present in their system even while the person presents no symptoms. Some may be asymptomatic, while others may initially have mild to moderate symptoms that can include high fever, cough and shortness of breath. The majority of patients will recover, but some may need to be hospitalized due to complications. The majority of our local positive cases have recovered while isolated or quarantined in their home. Please follow health department COVID-19 prevention guidelines regarding social distancing and proper hygiene. Persons should stay at home, not gather in groups and cover their nose and mouth when around others.

Laredo Medical Center issued a statement:

“We are sad to confirm that two more patients have died from COVID-19. We appreciate the valiant work done by our caregiving team and we extend our deepest sympathies to the patients’ families and loved ones. It is vitally important for all members of our community to practice hand hygiene and social distancing which are the best ways at this moment to slow the spread of the virus.”

The health department continues to conduct contact investigation on persons who have tested positive to determine possible exposure to others. If the health department has not contacted you there is no need to take any action at this time. However, if someone is sick they need to stay home. In households with a positive person, there should only be one dedicated caregiver. Other family members must stay apart and practice good hygiene and social distancing. The

positive person should be in a dedicated room and must wear a mask and not gather with other family members. The caregiver should also wear a mask when providing care. This is extremely important as evidence points to strong clustering among positive persons. Stay home if you are sick and call your doctor. Do not go to the office, call your doctor first. If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

As of **12:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 12**, a total of 1,064 persons have been tested, 551 of those tests have resulted negative, 196 have resulted positive, 317 are pending, 36 have recovered, 20 remain hospitalized, and 8 have passed.

In order to safeguard legally-protected information, the City of Laredo is not publically releasing personal or identifiable information regarding any cases as it relates to COVID-19 testing, results or monitoring.

Please continue to do your part in preventing the spread of all diseases. Follow the guidelines below:

- Follow the City and County order to stay at home and practice social distancing.
- Wash your hands often
- Wear a mask if possible
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you're sick
- Cover all coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently-touched surfaces

Visit www.cityoflaredo.com/coronavirus.html for up-to-date information regarding COVID-19.

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