

MEDIA ADVISORY
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

CONTACT:

Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer
(956) 625-8088
rbenavides@ci.laredo.tx.us

City of Laredo Addresses Local Hospital Capacity

LAREDO, Texas—The City of Laredo is providing an update on local hospital capacity as it pertains to COVID-19. As of this morning, both hospitals have reported the following:

The COVID-19 Unit at Laredo Medical Center has a total of:

- 30 beds for non-critical patients
 - 14 of those beds are currently being used by COVID-19 patients
- 42 intensive care unit (ICU) beds
 - 20 of those ICU beds are assigned for COVID-19 patients
 - 14 of those are currently being used by COVID-19 patients

The COVID-19 Unit at Doctors Hospital of Laredo has a total of:

- 35 beds for non-critical patients
 - 8 of those beds are currently being used by COVID-19 patients
- 24 ICU beds
 - 8 of those ICU beds are assigned for COVID-19 patients
 - 6 of those are currently being used by ICU COVID-19 patients

The actual number of available beds changes frequently and is dependent on the number of available health care workers at each unit.

“This trend is unsustainable unless we take immediate action,” said City of Laredo Health Authority Victor Treviño, M.D. “We have planned for surges to our health care system and are working with the state as well as local health care workers to build make shift hospital bed space, if necessary.”

“The amended order I signed this week states that all local hospitals must send a daily report to the City Health Department with several key indicators including the inventory of ICU beds and the total number of unused beds at the hospital which can be converted for COVID-19 patient care,” said Mayor Pete Saenz. “Furthermore, all hospitals have been ordered for some time to reserve 15 percent of their capacity for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Despite these measures, we are now at capacity at Laredo Medical Center and are making arrangements to provide care for COVID-19 patients at Doctors Hospital of Laredo. Our local Health Authority is

working with the city’s Emergency Management Coordinator and other entities to ensure we have enough beds, including ICU beds, available in Laredo in the event we see a surge of patients.”

Mayor Saenz went on to say, “This is not a joke. People are dying and infection is spreading. This may get worse unless we all act to stop the spread of this virus. I have seen too many residents make unsubstantiated arguments for not wearing a mask while in public and many continue to gather in groups even while Laredo is currently at Level 4 – Highest Risk in our alert system. This is a global pandemic and literally everyone is at risk, with some in our population who are at an even higher risk of developing complications from the novel coronavirus. Now is not the time to hoard or to only be concerned about your own well-being. We must think of our neighbors and the most vulnerable among us. Only by everyone taking preventative action, that is, wearing face masks, social distancing, washing hands avoiding large crowds, and staying home when possible, can we ensure that all of those who call Laredo home will be safe.”

###



Rafael Benavides

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

City of Laredo - Public Information Office

A: 1110 Houston Street Laredo, Texas 78040

P: (956) 791-7461 | C: (956) 625-8088

E: rbenavides@ci.laredo.tx.us

www.cityoflaredo.com

