



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City, County Confirm Fourth COVID-19 Related Death

LAREDO, Texas—The City of Laredo and Webb County have confirmed the fourth death in Laredo related to COVID-19. The City and County want to express their most sincere condolences to the family and want them to know that our counselors are available.

A 43-year-old male who had previously tested positive for COVID-19, and who had underlying health conditions, had been ill for over a week and was seen in the E.R. at Doctors Hospital of Laredo when he succumbed to the disease on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Doctors Hospital of Laredo released the following statement:

April 2, 2020 - As the novel Coronavirus takes its toll across the country and around the world, Doctors Hospital is saddened to confirm that a patient passed away yesterday, who had tested positive for COVID-19. We send our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the family during this difficult time.

The health and safety of our patients and staff are our highest priority, as we continue to deliver high-quality healthcare in our community. Doctors Hospital is working closely with City of Laredo Health Department, following the Centers for Disease Control guidelines, and we have implemented proactive precautions and protocols. We are screening all individuals entering the hospital, monitoring for symptoms in patients and implementing isolation protocols, if needed.

We continue to encourage the public to help prevent the spread of disease by practicing precautions such as social distancing, thoroughly washing hands, covering coughs/sneezes, and avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth. See our Health Alert update at www.ichoosedoctorshospital.com and follow us on Facebook for updates.

The City of Laredo Health Department is reminding the public that it is conducting 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 Thursday, April 2**, a total of persons 350 have been tested, 187 of those tests have resulted negative, 63 have resulted positive, 100 are pending, 7 have recovered, 12 remain in the hospital, and 4 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.

As the City of Laredo tests more people, more time is required to analyze the data. For this reason, as we release information twice a day, the City of Laredo will be prioritizing total number of people who have been tested, positive cases, recoveries and deaths. Visit www.cityoflaredo.com/coronavirus.html to see an continuously-updated interactive graph of COVID-19 in Laredo.

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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