



Representative  
**HENRY RIVERA**  
District 7



## **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

*March 31, 2020*

### **COVID-19 Update El Paso Identifies Additional COVID-19 Cases**

The number of COVID-19 cases in El Paso County now stands at 50 and health officials are confirming evidence of community spread, meaning the source of infection is unknown in some of the positive cases.

Today, Tuesday, March 31, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) reported four (4) new cases. Positive cases in El Paso County include 31 females and 19 males: 2

“Every time we report new numbers, whether it’s one or two or four, keep in mind that these are more potential exposures for people who may have underlying conditions. We cannot afford to be complacent in the war against this virus and compromise the lives of those who are susceptible,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. “When we ask you to stay home you need to stay home.”

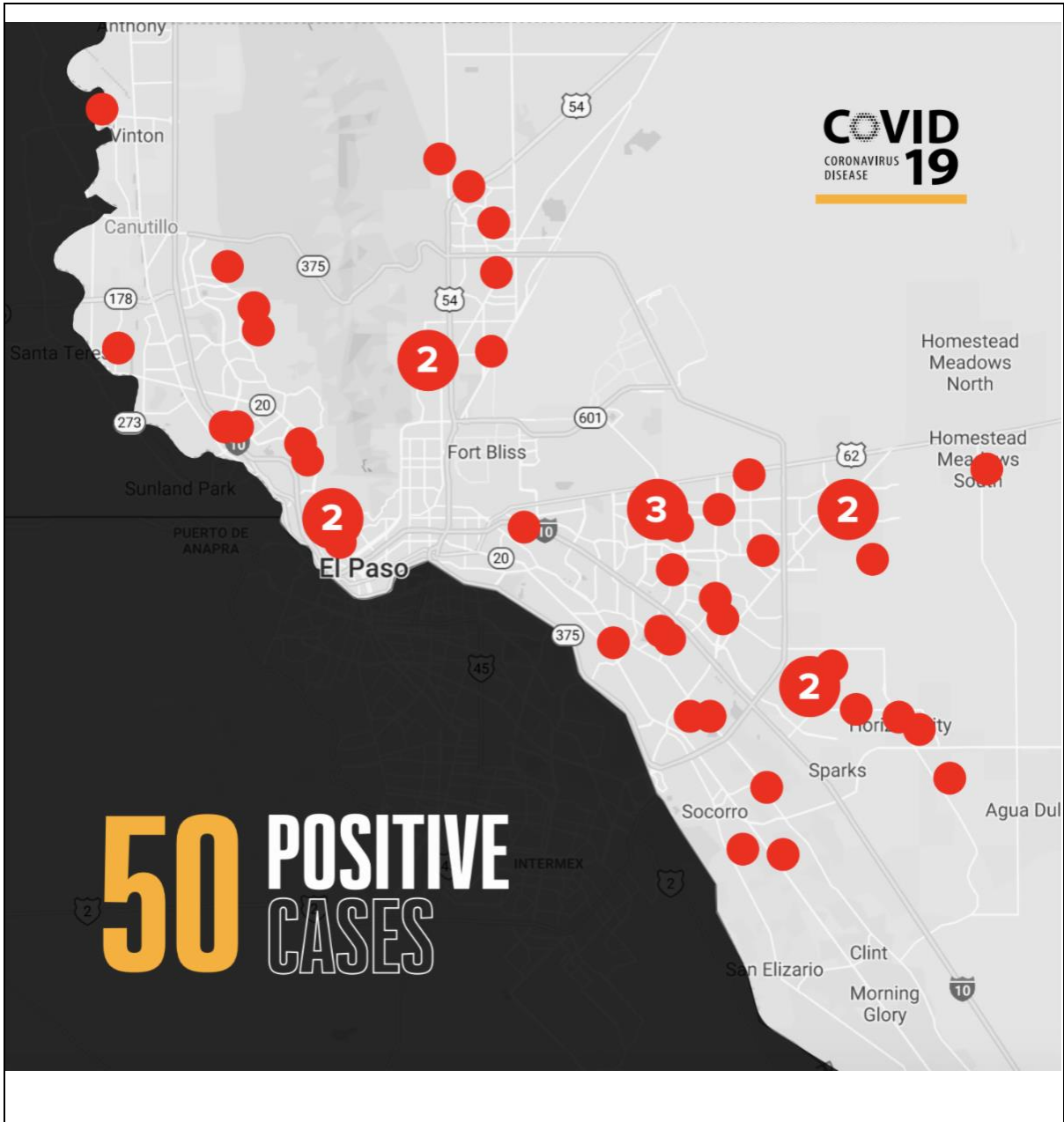
The City and County of El Paso postponed a scheduled press conference for later this week in order to allow City, County and Health Officials an opportunity to review Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Orders relating to COVID-19. Gov. Abbott issued another Executive Order regarding essential activities. In order to ensure compliance with the Governor’s order, Mayor Dee

Margo, Judge Ricardo Samaniego, and Dr. Ocaranza decided to postpone issuing any additional restrictions today. The existing Stay Home, Work Safe orders issued on March 23, 2020, remain in effect.

Residents are again reminded that if they must run essential errands to do so by themselves and avoid taking seniors and children with them. As they make their way in the community, they should also maintain a distance of at least six feet from others. High-risk individuals such as those 65 and older and individuals with compromised immune systems should take additional precautions.

Covering your cough, avoid touching your face, practicing regular handwashing, and cleaning common areas with disinfectant continue to be stressed. Local public health officials also want the public to become familiar with COVID-19 signs and symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If these symptoms don't improve they should contact their healthcare provider or seek medical attention.

The 21-COVID hotline is operational from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For referral, services contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6). For more information, visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org).





# COVID-19 CASES

AS OF MARCH 31, 2020

AGES	CASES
Teens	2
20's	9
30's	11
40's	8
50's	11
60's	6
70's	2
80's	1
<b>19 MALE</b>	<b>31 FEMALE</b>

## AGES:

Teens  
20's  
30's  
40's  
50's  
60's  
70's

## CASES:

2  
9  
11  
8  
11  
6  
2

80's  
19 MALE

1  
31 FEMALE

**COVID**  
CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE **19**

# COVID-19 CASES

AS OF MARCH 31, 2020

**50**  
POSITIVE

**38** TESTED BY  
The Department  
of Public Health Lab

**12** TESTED BY  
Other Outside  
Laboratories

**355**  
PATIENTS  
TESTED

By the Department of  
Public Health Lab

**317**  
NEGATIVE  
TESTS

By the Department of  
Public Health Lab

**14**  
PENDING  
RESULTS

By the Department of  
Public Health Lab

**5**  
RECOVERED  
CASES

For up-to-date information visit [EPStrong.org](https://epstrong.org) or call 21-COVID

50 Positive Cases:

-38 tested by the Department of Public Health Lab  
-12 tested by Other Outside Labs

355 Patients Tested by the Department of Public Health Lab

317 Negative Tests by the Department of Public Health Lab

14 Pending Results by the Department of Public Health Lab

5 Recovered Cases

---

## City Updates Drive-Thru Guidelines, Operating Hours to Increase COVID-19 Specimen Collection in El Paso

In effort to increase the number of specimens collected and tested for COVID-19, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health has updated the qualifications needed to access the service.

**The following criteria will be used to identify those who qualify for specimen collection:**

- First Responders and Health Care Workers with symptoms
  - Persons 65 y/o or older with symptoms
- Persons any age, with symptoms **and** underlying medical conditions
- Individuals evaluated by their medical provider and provided with a lab order through Quest Diagnostics

Additionally, specimens will now be collected Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A picture ID or any other form of identification is required to confirm appointment. Patients who qualify may call (915) 212-0783 to make an appointment. The patient's privacy will be maintained and the patient will not be asked for their citizenship or immigration status.

Qualifying individuals must not take any fever reducing medications prior to the appointment. A physician's order or insurance is not required; however, staff may still ask for orders and insurance as a part of the process. If testing criteria is not met, the appointment and/or specimen collection at the site will be denied.

For further details please see the attached advisory. Additional information is available at [EPStrong.org](http://EPStrong.org).

**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## DRIVE-THRU FAQ'S

WHO QUALIFIES FOR SPECIMEN COLLECTION?



Seniors 65 years or older with symptoms.



Persons any age, with symptoms and with underlying medical conditions.



First Responders and Health Care Facility Workers with symptoms.




Persons evaluated by a medical provider and receive a Quest laboratory order.

If you qualify, call (915) 212-0783 to make an appointment.


**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## AUTOSERVICIO FAQ'S


¿QUIÉN CALIFICA PARA LA RECOLECCIÓN DE MUESTRAS?




Personas mayores de 65 años o más con síntomas.



Personas de cualquier edad, con síntomas y con condiciones médicas preexistentes.



Primeros respondedores y trabajadores de centros de atención médica con síntomas.



Personas evaluadas por un proveedor médico y reciben una orden de laboratorio de Quest.

Si califica, llame al (915) 212-0783 para hacer una cita.

**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## DRIVE-THRU FAQ'S

HOW DOES THE SPECIMEN COLLECTION WORK?



1. Qualifying individuals should not take any fever reducing medications prior to their appointment.



2. At the drive-thru specimen collection site, follow the signs and have a form of identification ready.



3. You don't need health insurance but you will be asked for health insurance information so the laboratory can seek reimbursement.



4. Keep your windows up at all times until you are told to lower them.



5. A specimen will be collected and sent out to a laboratory to conduct a test.



6. Follow your doctor's instructions and remain home until you receive your results or are cleared by your doctor.

If you qualify, call (915) 212-0783 to make an appointment.

**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## AUTOSERVICIO FAQ'S

¿COMO FUNCIONA LA RECOLECCIÓN DE MUESTRAS?



1. Las personas que califican no deben tomar medicamentos para reducir la fiebre antes de su cita.



2. En el sitio de recolección de muestras, siga las indicaciones y tenga lista una forma de identificación.



3. No necesita seguro médico, pero se le pedirá información sobre el seguro médico para que el laboratorio pueda solicitar un reembolso.



4. Mantenga sus ventanas abiertas en todo momento hasta que se le indique que las baje.



5. Se recolectará una muestra y se enviará a un laboratorio para realizar una prueba.



6. Siga las instrucciones de su médico y permanezca en casa hasta que reciba sus resultados o su médico lo autorice.

Si califica, llame al (915) 212-0783 para hacer una cita.

## City and County Create Joint Small Business Emergency Relief Program

*Partnership offers zero interest loans, grants to  
struggling businesses*





## **City and County Create Joint Small Business Emergency Relief Program**

*Partnership offers zero interest loans, grants to struggling businesses*

The City and County of El Paso have each approved \$1 million funding to establish a Small Business Emergency Relief Program, managed by LiftFund, a nonprofit organization that helps finance new small business and startup companies.

The new program will allow eligible businesses to apply for zero interest loans and some grants.

The LiftFund will be responsible for distributing \$1.7 million in funds, which according to the company will have a \$23.8 million impact on the local economy based on previous studies. Businesses can receive a loan of up to \$25,000 and a grant of up to \$5,000. LiftFund will start taking applications beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2020 on its website: [www.LiftFund.com](http://www.LiftFund.com).

Businesses with ten employees or less can apply for a loan, while businesses with five employees or less can apply for a grant. In order to qualify, businesses must have been operating since August 2019, have good credit, and must prepare a six month recovery plan and work capital plan that demonstrates the award will help them get through this time of uncertainty.

LiftFund will also be required to make a \$1,200,000 balloon payment within four years that will be used to establish the El Paso Dream Makers Fund. The fund will be a permanent revolving loan fund for small businesses and will be administered by LiftFund.

**For more information about other resources for businesses impact by the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org) and click on Resources.**

***Any small businesses with questions can contact the Office of City Rep. Henry Rivera, District 7 at 915.212.0007 or [district#7@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:district#7@elpasotexas.gov)***



## **La ciudad y el condado crean un programa conjunto de ayuda de emergencia para pequeñas empresas**

*La asociación ofrece préstamos sin intereses, subvenciones a empresas en dificultades*

La ciudad y el condado de El Paso han aprobado cada uno \$ 1 millón de fondos para establecer un programa de ayuda de emergencia para pequeñas empresas, administrado por LiftFund, una organización sin fines de lucro que ayuda a financiar nuevas pequeñas empresas y nuevas empresas.

El nuevo programa permitirá a las empresas elegibles solicitar préstamos sin intereses y algunas subvenciones.

LiftFund será responsable de distribuir \$ 1.7 millones en fondos, lo que según la compañía tendrá un impacto de \$ 23.8 millones en la economía local según estudios previos. Las empresas pueden recibir un préstamo de hasta \$ 25,000 y una subvención de hasta \$ 5,000. LiftFund comenzará a aceptar solicitudes a partir del miércoles 1 de abril de 2020 en su sitio web: [www.LiftFund.com](http://www.LiftFund.com).

Las empresas con diez empleados o menos pueden solicitar un préstamo, mientras que las empresas con cinco empleados o menos pueden solicitar una subvención. Para calificar, las empresas deben haber estado operando desde agosto de 2019, tener un buen crédito y deben preparar un plan de recuperación de seis meses y un plan de capital de trabajo que demuestre que la adjudicación los ayudará a superar este momento de incertidumbre.

También se requerirá que LiftFund realice un pago global de \$ 1,200,000 dentro de los cuatro años que se utilizará para establecer el Fondo El Paso Dream Makers. El fondo será un fondo de préstamo rotativo permanente para pequeñas empresas y será administrado por LiftFund.

**Para obtener más información sobre otros recursos para el impacto de las empresas por la pandemia COVID-19, visite [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org) y haga clic en Recursos.**

***Cualquier pequeña empresa que tenga preguntas puede comunicarse con la Oficina del Representante de la Ciudad Henry Rivera, Distrito 7 al 915.212.0007 o [district#7@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:district#7@elpasotexas.gov)***

[Presentation](#)

[Official Press Release](#)

[LiftFund Website](#)

[One-Pager](#)

[More Information](#)

---

## **Sun Metro Social Distancing Update**

*COVID-19 Related Efforts*



# **Sun Metro Social Distancing Update**

## *COVID-19 Related Efforts*

Effective immediately, Sun Metro will take extra steps to safeguard its passengers and employees by implementing the new 'Seat Closed' rule.

Upon boarding from the rear doors, passengers will notice 'Seat Closed' signs on every other seat to make it easier for them to follow the more aggressive social distancing protocol of one seated passenger per row.

Highly utilized routes will have stand-by buses available to assist with transporting passengers. As a reminder, Sun Metro is waiving fares during this health crisis to limit exposure amongst passengers and drivers alike and passengers should ride only for essential activities such as to get medications, healthcare, groceries or get to work if they are an essential worker.

### **Sun Metro also encourages passengers to follow U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines:**

- **Stay home if you are feeling sick**
- **Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**
  - **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth**
  - **Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow**

For more information about Sun Metro, visit [sunmetro.net](http://sunmetro.net) or call (915) 212-3333. Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/sunmetro](https://facebook.com/sunmetro) or follow us on Twitter @SunMetro.

For more information about the City of El Paso's COVID-19 containment efforts, visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org)



**For any questions please contact the District 7 office at 915.212.0007 or [district#7@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:district#7@elpasotexas.gov)**





## COVID-19 Esfuerzos relacionados

Con vigencia inmediata, Sun Metro tomará medidas adicionales para proteger a sus pasajeros y empleados mediante la implementación de la nueva regla "Asiento cerrado".

Al abordar desde las puertas traseras, los pasajeros notarán letreros de "Asiento cerrado" en cualquier otro asiento para que les sea más fácil seguir el protocolo de distanciamiento social más agresivo de un pasajero sentado por fila.

Las rutas altamente utilizadas tendrán autobuses disponibles para ayudar con el transporte de pasajeros. Como recordatorio, Sun Metro está renunciando a las tarifas durante esta crisis de salud para limitar la exposición entre los pasajeros y los conductores, y los pasajeros deben viajar solo para actividades esenciales como obtener medicamentos, atención médica, comestibles o ir a trabajar si son trabajadores esenciales.

### **Sun Metro también alienta a los pasajeros a seguir las pautas de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades de EE. UU. :**

- **Quédese en casa si se siente enfermo**
- **Lávese las manos con agua y jabón durante al menos 20 segundos.**
- **Evitar tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca**
- **Cubra su tos o estornude en su codo**

Para obtener más información sobre Sun Metro, visite [sunmetro.net](http://sunmetro.net) o llame al (915) 212-3333.

Denos gusta en Facebook en [facebook.com/sunmetro](https://facebook.com/sunmetro) o síganos en Twitter @SunMetro.

Para obtener más información sobre los esfuerzos de contención de COVID-19 de la Ciudad de El Paso, visite [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org)



**Para cualquier pregunta, comuníquese con la oficina del Distrito 7 al 915.212.0007 o [district#7@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:district#7@elpasotexas.gov)**

Sun Metro Website

Official Press Release

## Message From Your Community Doctors

*Stay Home, Work Safe*



**COVID-19 Information + Resources**

## Symptoms

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Call your healthcare provider if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

[Learn More](#)

[Symptom Checker](#)

## How It Spreads

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, and possibly by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes after touching an infected surface.

Person-to-Person spread is defined as:



- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

[Learn More](#)

## Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019.



The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.

[Learn More](#)

## If you get sick

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.



Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick:

- Stay at home and avoid public areas.
- Stay away from others.
- Wear a face mask or cover your coughs and sneezes.

[Learn More](#)



[Closures](#) [FAQs](#) [Resources](#) [Health Orders](#) [Scams](#) [Videos](#)



[AUG. 3 TRAGEDY →](#)

## RESOURCES



## COVID-19 Resources



FAQ'S



## COVID-19 FAQ's



CLOSURES



## COVID-19 Closures



[Closures](#) [FAQs](#) [Resources](#) [Health Orders](#) [Scams](#) [Videos](#)

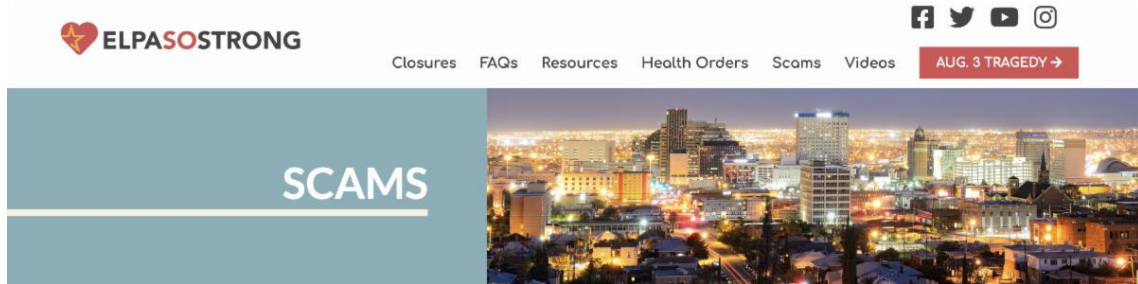
[AUG. 3 TRAGEDY →](#)

HEALTH ORDERS

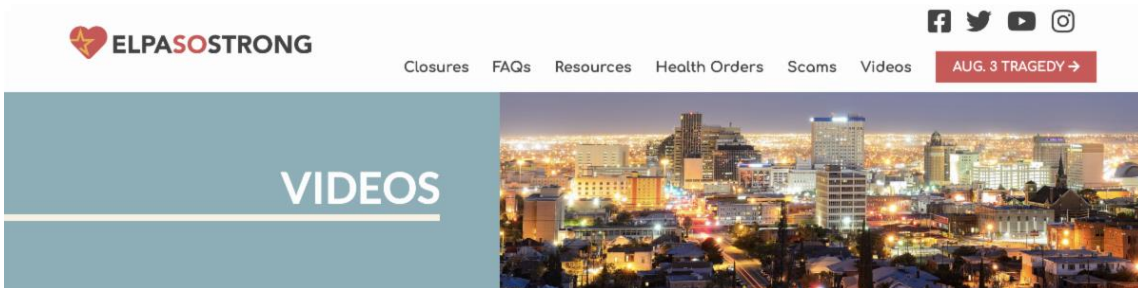




## COVID-19 Health Orders



## COVID-19 Scams



## COVID-19 Videos



# COVID-19 Compliance Intake Form

ESD won't be returning phone calls.  
Will review entry and follow-up as per the instructions from OEM.

## Report Compliance Complaint



### **Newsletter/ Social Media Developer:**

Should you have any questions, comments and/or concerns about this edition of the newsletter, please contact Priscilla Contreras at 915.212.1032 or [contreraspi@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:contreraspi@elpasotexas.gov)

**We Proudly Support our Troops  
and First Responders**

