

JOINT STATEMENT OF BASTROP COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

(Includes Bastrop County, City of Bastrop, City of Elgin, City of Smithville)

May 11, 2020 - Results of Nursing Home Facilities COVID-19 Testing Encouraging

The Bastrop County Health Authority and the Office of Emergency Management have been monitoring the nursing home facilities in Bastrop County. The results of a recent survey for the COVID-19 virus showed one positive out the 94 tests taken. The person with the positive result is being monitored by their physician and is now in isolation.

For the confidentiality of those being tested, the names of the nursing home facilities are not being released at this time. The County has asked the Texas Department of State Health Services to follow up by having every resident and employee of the facility tested as soon as possible.

“This is very good news,” said Health Authority Dr. Desmar Walkes. “Based on other facilities in the MSA, we are pleased that there appears to be no epidemic of the virus in our local elder-care facilities.” The County hopes to conduct other tests in these and other similar facilities as tests become available.

“Each new bit of data helps paint a more complete picture,” County Judge Paul Pape said. “This information from these facilities, home to some of the most vulnerable to severe outcomes from the virus, is welcome information.” As we have the capability, we will continue to test the highest risk populations so that we can make better policy decisions about how and where to respond.

The County has now conducted a total of 890 tests. Beginning March 24th through May 8th, 433 of those have been at the drive-thru test site based on a doctor’s orders. On April 23 and 24th, 150 volunteers were involved in the prevalence tests done throughout the county. The Texas Army National Guard units, on April 28th, tested 213 individuals based on pre-existing conditions and involvement as First Responders. The results for these tests are still pending. Finally, these 94 tests were in two nursing home facilities last week. As of now, there are 112 positive cases confirmed in Bastrop County, with 35 recoveries, and 2 fatalities.

The County has applied for funding from St. David’s Foundation to conduct five to six thousand COVID antibodies tests. It is expected that the grant will be approved by the middle of June and testing could begin by the first of July.

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