



For Immediate Release

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Harlingen and STEC Kick-Off Home COVID-19 Testing Program for Homebound, Elderly, and Indigent Patients

Harlingen, Texas– The City of Harlingen has partnered with its 9-1-1 provider, South Texas Emergency Care Foundation (STEC) to test elderly and lower-income or indigent Harlingen residents for COVID-19 in the comfort of their own homes if they've been exposed to the virus.

The program is part of an agreement approved by the Harlingen City Commission as a means to help residents who can't travel to a test site as well as to alleviate an overwhelming surge at local hospitals.

The City will cover the cost of the tests and STEC is providing the service for free to the city and the patient as a means to protect the well-being of the community.

This is how the program works:

- 1) Indigent, elderly, or homebound Harlingen residents that have been exposed or have symptoms should call their doctor first and explain what is going on.
- 2) If the doctor recommends a COVID-19 test that's when the patient will contact the Harlingen Health Department to set up a test appointment by calling (956) 216-5220.
- 3) If the patient is sick enough that they require an ambulance, they should call 9-1-1.

This program is not for everyone though. The City is providing testing at no cost for Harlingen residents that can visit the UTRGV testing site at the Regional Academic Health Center located at 2102 Treasure Hills Boulevard. This site is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and an appointment is required. To set one up, residents can visit uthealthrgv.org/coronavirus or by calling the UT Health RGV Call Center at 1-833-UTRGVMD (1-833-887-4863). They can also be tested at no cost in Brownsville. To make an appointment for this site, visit BTXcares.com.

Again, this home testing program is for the indigent, elderly, and homebound Harlingen residents only.

News From The City of Harlingen

Meantime, the City of Harlingen continues to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the community. Everyone is encouraged to continue practicing social distancing, washing their hands frequently, wearing facial coverings, and staying home if not feeling well.

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