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State to Conduct COVID-19 Testing in Hereford

HRMC will suspend reporting of its testing results to avoid public confusion

May 7, 2020 (Hereford, TX) – On Friday, May 8, the Texas Department of State Health Services will have a state-run, mobile COVID-19 testing site in Hereford. This one-day mobile testing site will operate in addition to the continued testing provided at Hereford Regional Medical Center for those with symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to someone with the virus.

With added testing sites and multiple sources of testing data, as of May 8, HRMC is suspending publicly reporting data on the number of tests performed at the hospital and number of confirmed positives from those tests. HRMC had been providing this data daily through its Facebook page and website since late April to keep the public informed about the spread of COVID-19.

“We decided that continuing to share our testing data could be confusing to the community when the state is also reporting testing results,” said Jeff Barnhart, CEO, Hereford Regional Medical Center. “The state data will include testing results that we don’t manage or have access to, and I want to make sure we don’t mislead the public in any way about the true scope and reach of this virus.”

Hereford Regional Medical Center has a COVID-19 hotline for the community to answer questions about testing. Calls are answered between 7 AM and 10 PM daily by HRMC staff. The number is 806/363-3150. The hospital’s COVID-19 web page is also updated regularly: dschd.org/covid-19. The state’s testing data is available [here](#).

“Having trusted, accurate information is so important during this time,” Barnhart. “Unfortunately, there’s a lot of misinformation and rumor circulating, and it adds to people’s fear and anxiety. Hereford Regional prides itself on providing clear, trusted, evidence-based information to help our community make the best health care decisions for themselves and their families.”

HRMC encourages the community to practice sensible infection control and prevention, including:

- Wear a mask when out in public.
- Stay home as much as possible.
- Maintain as much physical distance between yourself and others when in public.
- Avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Trusted online resources about COVID-19, which are updated regularly, include:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/ncov
- Texas Department of State Health Services: dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/
- Hereford Regional Medical Center: dschd.org/covid-19

ABOUT HEREFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Hereford Regional Medical Center (HRMC) is a full-service health care facility operated by the Deaf Smith County Hospital District. We operate an outpatient clinic and inpatient hospital and are designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services as a Level IV trauma center. HRMC is governed by an elected board of directors and licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Our mission is to improve the health and quality of life of the individuals and communities we serve.