



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
COUNTY JUDGE
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

Public Affairs Division
Julia Benitez Sullivan
Manager

100 E. Cano St., 1st Floor
(956) 292-7026 P
(956) 292-7766 F
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us W
Public.Info@co.hidalgo.tx.us E

Contact: Julia Benitez Sullivan
Phone: 956.292.7026
Email: julia.sullivan@co.hidalgo.tx.us

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019

County health officials warn about vaping and lung issues

EDINBURG – Hidalgo County Health and Human Services has joined with the Texas Department of State Health Services to urge residents to avoid using e-cigarettes due to increasing reports of severe lung disease in people who report vaping before developing symptoms.

DSHS has identified 25 Texas cases (including one from Hidalgo County) of severe lung disease in people who report vaping before developing symptoms and are gathering more information about 12 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in Texas and 35 other states.

Until more is known about the cause, people should consider not using e-cigarettes.

###

Note to News Media: Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Chief Administrative Officer Eddie Olivarez will be available for interviews (on camera or telephone) from 2 to 3 p.m. today (Tuesday, Sept. 17) in his office, located at 1304 S. 25th Ave. in Edinburg. You can reach him at (956) 383-8858.

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus