



## 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**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 9, 2020

### **Hidalgo County mayors meet with Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez to discuss the coronavirus**

**EDINBURG** – As part of his ongoing effort to be prepared for any contingency related to the coronavirus, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez met with 18 area mayors or their representatives on Monday to share the county's state of preparedness.

"The threat to Hidalgo County remains low," Judge Cortez told the assembled gathering. "I asked you here because I want you to know the actions that we will take to help you." Under Texas law, Judge Cortez is the director of emergency management for the county and would implement any response should a case of COVID-19 or coronavirus be diagnosed in Hidalgo County.

To date, there have been no COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Hidalgo County, but there has been at least 12 confirmed positive cases in Texas.

"We are at a Level 3 operation for monitoring and response," said Eduardo Olivarez, chief administrative officer for Hidalgo County Health and Human Services. He explained that Level 4 meant that everything was normal. Level 1 is the most heightened level and occurs only when Judge Cortez declares a health emergency. That declaration triggers a full-time emergency operations center that monitors developments around the clock.

All 22 mayors of Hidalgo County municipalities were invited to the meeting. And many of them had questions related to potential exposure to the disease; travel related questions; and questions about procedures should a case of COVID-19 arise in Hidalgo County.

Cortez assured the mayors and their representatives that county officials were closely monitoring developments regarding the outbreak and had specific plans in place to deal with any contingency.

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*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](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus)*