



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 ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, April 11, 2020

Seven new cases of COVID-19 in Hidalgo County; Officials warn against use of Inflatable Playscapes on Easter

County officials are warning Hidalgo County residents against the use of inflatable playscapes on Easter Sunday as seven new positive cases of COVID-19 have been reported, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez said Saturday.

"Over the last few days, city and county officials have received several phone calls from citizens asking if inflatable playscapes are OK to use," Judge Cortez said. "They are not. The companies who rent them are not considered essential businesses and the playscapes themselves are too large to efficiently disinfect," he said. "County health experts are strongly advising people to stay off these inflatable playscapes, which have become a staple of Easter gatherings."

These seven new cases bring the total number of cases in Hidalgo County to 188, health officials said. Thirty-three of them have been hospitalized; six are in intensive care units. No new individuals have been released from isolation. The mayors of all the affected cities have been contacted as have the four Hidalgo County Precinct Commissioners, Judge Cortez said. All the news cases and their family members have been ordered to isolate themselves at home.

There will be no additional information provided about these cases.

Please email Hidalgo County Public Affairs Director Carlos Sanchez at carlos.sanchez@co.hidalgo.tx.us for any questions.

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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