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January 24, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Four Additional Flu-Related Deaths Reported in El Paso

EL PASO, Texas – The Department of Public Health has received reports of four additional flu-related deaths in the area this season bringing the total of flu-related deaths to seven.

The patients' information is as follows:

	1.	Female	50's	Underlying Medical Conditions
	2.	Male	90's	Underlying Medical Conditions
	3.	Male	90's	Underlying Medical Conditions
NEW	4.	Male	80's	Underlying Medical Conditions
NEW	5.	Male	80's	Underlying Medical Conditions
NEW	6.	Female	80's	Underlying Medical Conditions
NEW	7.	Female	70's	Underlying Medical Conditions

"The loss of life to the influenza virus is devastating to say the least," said Public Health Director Robert Resendes. "The list, which unfortunately continues to grow, shows us how important it is to pay special attention when it comes to our senior population, especially those whose immune system may be especially vulnerable to the disease."

There have been 3,379 confirmed flu cases reported in El Paso as of the second week in January; more than eight times higher than the 396 cases that were reported at this time last year.

Public Health officials continue to urge medical providers to test for the flu and to prescribe antivirals when possible. El Paso residents are encouraged to get vaccinated and practice the "4 C's" which have proven to be effective in preventing the spread of the flu:

1. **CLEAN** - Wash your hands often. Scrub your hands for at least 30 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
2. **COVER** – Cover your cough. Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Don't have a tissue? The crook of your elbow will do.
3. **CONTAIN** – Contain germs by steering clear of others who are sick. If you do get sick, stay home until you are well again, so you do not spread more germs.
4. **CALL** – Call or see your doctor if you or your child has a fever greater than 100 degrees.

For more information on the programs and services provided by the Department of Public Health, call 2-1-1 or visit www.EPHealth.com.

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