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April 8, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

Fourth Flu-related Death Reported in El Paso

EL PASO, Texas – The Department of Public Health announced today that a fourth person has succumbed to the flu virus this season.

It is unknown if the man, who was in his early 90s, had received the flu vaccine this season; however, public health officials confirmed the man had underlying medical conditions.

“Our investigation has concluded that this man’s death was related to his contraction of the influenza virus,” said Fernando Gonzalez, Lead Epidemiologist. “The number of flu cases in our region continues its seasonal decline but the virus can still be active, and under certain circumstances, can be deadly. We extend our condolences to this man’s loved ones.”

At the end of March 2019, the number of flu cases was recorded at 12,681. That is 515 more cases compared to this same time last season. There were 21 flu-related deaths during last year’s flu season.

In addition to the flu vaccine, public health officials remind the public to practice the four C’s to help reduce the incidence of infection.

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’re well again, so you don’t spread more germs.
4. **CALL** – Call or see your doctor if you or your child has a fever greater than 100 degrees.

Additional information is available at EPHealth.com or EPSalud.com under the flu tab.

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