

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Protocol – COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Residents and Visitors of El Paso County,

In an effort to reduce the potential exposure to Sheriff Deputies and the community we have temporarily adjusted our police response procedures. The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and these adjustments help us to continue to provide quality police service during this ever-changing event.

All dispatch personnel have implemented the emerging infectious disease protocol for COVID-19, and are screening people for the virus so that first responders can take the necessary precautions.

The protocol below will go into effect immediately and continue until further notice:

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office will only be responding to **HIGH PRIORITY – EMERGENCY CALLS** for service, including but not limited to:

- Calls Involving Violence/Probability of Violence or Crimes Against Individuals
- Crimes in Progress
- All Disturbances
- Traffic Accidents involving injuries and/ or have occurred on public roadway
- Alarm Calls
- Any calls where evidence needs to be collected or a crime scene needs to be processed.
- Suspicious persons or vehicle calls
- Ambulance Calls involving serious injury/Unconsciousness/Possibility of Death
- Any call that the on-duty supervisor determines that a physical response is appropriate.

If law enforcement is responding to your residence, we kindly ask that that you meet with the officer outside if possible.

LOW PRIORITY CALLS FOR SERVICE

All non-emergency calls for service that require a police report such as delayed calls for thefts, property crimes, suspicious or harassing phone calls (as examples) will be handled by the officer contacting the complainant and taking the report over the phone. Therefore, we encourage residents with these types of non-emergency calls for service to contact our non-emergency number (915)546-2280.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE El Paso County Sheriff's Office Headquarters:

- If your report can be taken over the telephone.
- If you have a fever or have had a fever within the last 24 hours.
- If you have traveled outside of the United States within the last 14 days.
- If you are experiencing, flu like symptoms, a cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath.

Please remember we are committed to serving our citizens and guests but in order to do this on a continual basis we have to make sure our officers and staff remain healthy. We are taking these extraordinary steps as we are experiencing extraordinary times. We are taking these steps to minimize health risks to our employees, and or community, especially those most vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

El Paso County Sheriff's Office
Emergency Management Unit

Detention Facilities Visiting Information

With evidence of community spread of COVID-19, effective *March , 2020*, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Detention Bureau is temporarily suspending all visitation at both the Downtown Detention Facility and Jail Annex. We believe these measures are the best way to safeguard the health of those in our custody, the staff responsible for their caretaking, and the community.