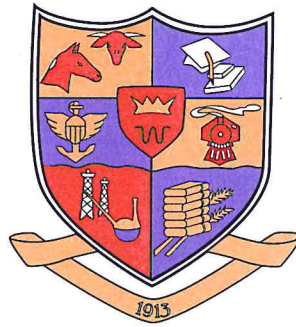


RUDY MADRID
County Judge



Kleberg County
P.O. Box 752
Kingsville, Texas 78364-0752
Phone: (361) 595-8585
Fax: (361) 592-0838
E-mail: rmadrid@co.kleberg.tx.us

March 18, 2020

COUNTY of KLEBERG
KINGSVILLE, TEXAS

Attn: TDEM Region 3

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Global Pandemic – Urgent Request

On behalf of Kleberg County, Texas, I am forwarding this request with the absolute **HIGHEST** level of urgency.


1. Kleberg County continues to take very stringent precautions in accordance with recommendations from the CDC and DSHS. It is our strong concern that we are left vulnerable without immediate offsite testing facilities at our disposal. Currently, physicians are having difficulties with testing access and are being directed to send their patients to Harlingen, Texas. This is unacceptable. Our current hospital facility provides Emergency Services to multiple counties in between Nueces County and the Rio Grande Valley. This leaves our community very vulnerable if our only hospital was to become infected. We are duty-bound to provide our health care providers a remote testing site to ensure absolute safety. Nevertheless, we would follow all DSHS pre-screening protocols and comply with any rules put into effect.
2. This is our request:
 - a. Initiate immediate measures to supply Kleberg County with the needed testing supplies to establish an off-site testing facility for COVID-19.
- OR -
 - b. Implement immediate measures allowing Kleberg County direct access for usage of off-site testing facilities in Corpus Christi, Texas – AND- increase supplies for the Nueces County testing facility to adequately sustain regional healthcare efforts.



Rudy Madrid, Kleberg County Judge



Dr. Jose Ugarte, Medical Director Kleberg County



Emilio Garcia, Health Director

Cc: State Representative J.M. Lozano
Cc: State Senator, Eddie Lucio
Cc: Congressman Filemon Vela
Cc: Senator John Cornyn

FILEMON VELA
34TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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March 18, 2020

Dr. Emilie Prot
Regional Medical Director
Public Health Region 11
Texas Department of State Health Services
601 West Sesame Drive
Harlingen, TX 78550

Dear Dr. Prot:

As all levels of government work together to address the COVID-19 outbreak, I applaud the establishment of a mobile testing location in Nueces County. I urge you to authorize this location to provide services to residents throughout the region and to ensure that it has enough supplies to support the needs not only of Nueces County but also the nearby counties.

Nueces and Kleberg Counties are working together to ensure that all their residents have access to testing and care. Key to the success of these and similar cooperative efforts is providing access to testing and sufficient resources at the Nueces County testing site to meet the requirements of the neighboring counties.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. During these difficult times, I appreciate all that you and your staff are doing to maintain the health and safety of South Texas families.

Sincerely,



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress