

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- June 2, 2020

## **Nacogdoches County Jail Receives Testing Results** *Bulk of State Issued Tests Still Pending*

In an effort to identify, isolate, and contain the COVID-19 virus in group quarters throughout the community, Nacogdoches County Sheriff Jason Bridges requested state-supported testing for all jail inmates and employees. This came in response to an asymptomatic inmate testing positive on May 20. This inmate remains housed at a Gregg County Jail facility. **None of the 233 jail inmates and 50 employees tested positive.** All test results have been received at time of publishing.

The Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF-6) and the Texas Division of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Strike Team conducted initial tests.

32 additional tests were conducted locally on May 28 for patrol deputies and support staff, of which none were positive. The Nacogdoches County jail continues to take precautions and follow established protocols to monitor inmates' and employees' health and to minimize the potential spread of the coronavirus.

Across the state, strategic testing of nursing homes and other known hot spots was ordered by the Governor on May 11 to identify, isolate, and contain the COVID19 virus. **Increased testing is a positive step to preventing the spread.** At time of publishing, 10 positives were confirmed--hundreds of other test results from local hot spots are still pending. This process is expected to result in an uptick of case counts in Nacogdoches County simply due to the sheer number of tests which will be administered. Testing continues at nursing homes, industries and among healthcare workers.

*Before these test results become available it is important to note, at time of publishing, Nacogdoches officials have identified a continued 'flattening of the curve' based on a moving 7, 14, and 21 day average of daily case counts. Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the DSHS, recommended in a press conference that tracking cases in this manner is best to capture a true picture of data trends. Case counts are fluid and it is difficult to reconcile local numbers and state numbers on any given day.*