



For Immediate Release

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**Dallas County Health and Human Services Lab First in Texas with
Coronavirus Testing Capability**

Dallas County Health and Human Services has been working with state and federal partners to bring capacity to our Local Response Network (LRN) laboratory to provide timely testing for novel coronavirus. This is a critical tool for responding to this emerging public health issue. The Dallas County LRN laboratory serves several other counties in North Texas, increasing regional preparedness in response to this emerging public health issue.

‘We’ve dramatically strengthened Dallas County’s testing capability over the last five years and this specific testing capacity will decrease our test turnaround from 72 hours to less than a day,’ said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

“While there are currently no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Dallas County, we are taking the risk of an outbreak very seriously and are preparing for any level of response that may be needed,” said DCHHS Director Dr. Philip Huang. “The ability for us to test for coronavirus locally here in Dallas County is essential to our preparedness efforts and ability to rapidly respond to this evolving situation,”

For additional information about novel coronavirus, please visit the websites below.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

DSHS: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

DCHHS: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>