



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OFFICIALS CONFIRM FIRST COVID-19 RELATED DEATH IN LEA COUNTY**

**LOVINGTON, NM,** July 21, 2020 – Nor-Lea Hospital District (NLHD)’s CEO, David Shaw, has received official confirmation regarding the death of an individual residing in Lovington, NM due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual is a female in her forties who received treatment for COVID-19 symptoms at NLHD but was transferred to Covenant Health System in Lubbock, TX where she later passed away.

“Our hearts are heavy with the news of the passing of this patient,” said Shaw. “Our staff worked diligently in caring for her during her stay with us. Those staff members, myself and our entire organization take this loss personally. Our hearts and our prayers go out to her family and loved ones as we mourn alongside them.”

David Shaw and City of Lovington Manager, James Williams, have worked closely together to keep the public safe and informed since COVID-19 was first classified as a pandemic and public health orders were in place for the state of New Mexico back in March of this year.

“The City Commissioners and employees of the City of Lovington are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our own citizens due to COVID-19, stated Williams. “Our thoughts, condolences and prayers go out to her family and loved ones. Until there is a cure for this virus, our city employees will continue to lead by example and try to prevent its spread by abiding by the widely-accepted safety protocols of social distancing, wearing masks and frequent washing of hands.”

Also commenting on the loss was City of Lovington Mayor, David Trujillo. “To lose just one of our citizens from this virus is one person too many,” said Trujillo. “Our community is a big family and her passing has been felt by all. Out of respect for others, please try and follow health guidelines to keep our family safe.”

For New Mexico Department of Health and Governor Lujan Grisham’s official release regarding COVID-19 related deaths in New Mexico, please visit [cv.nmhealth.org/newsroom/](http://cv.nmhealth.org/newsroom/).

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