The UTRGV Center for Vector-Borne Disease is happy to announce they are leveraging their expertise in arboviral diagnostic to assist in a screening effort for COVID-19 in the lower Rio Grande Valley. This effort will be led by Dr. John Thomas, a virologist in the UTRGV Biology Department and founding member of the Center for Vector-Borne Disease. Dr. Thomas, along with Drs. Vittek and Schuenzel as well as staff from their labs, will conduct preliminary, non-diagnostic screening assays of samples for COVID-19. The UTRVG School of Medicine will provide samples obtained through drive-through collection facilities on both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. Our goal is to provide needed assistance for rapid preliminary detection of COVID-19 to prevent additional spread of the pathogen.

The UTRGV Center for Vector-Borne Disease will continue to provide information and guidance when feasible during this pandemic, or you can call the UTRGV Assistance Hotline at 1-833-UTRGVMD (1-833-887-4863). The UTRGV Center for Vector-Borne Disease cannot provide diagnosis or treatment advice. If you have health related questions, we encourage you to contact your health provider, or if it is an emergency to contact the appropriate emergency services. If you need to contact us, we can be reached at cvbd@utrgv.edu. The Center for Vector-Borne Disease was established in 2018 and is currently involved in a number of research, education, and outreach efforts related to vector-borne diseases.