

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 4, 2021

TO Honorable Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance

SUBJECT **Update on City of Dallas Ongoing Efforts to Address COVID-19 Health Access Disparities**

On Thursday May 28, 2020, Chair Thomas requested a special-called meeting as a follow-up from the Monday, May 11, 2020, Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee briefing where the Office of Equity and Office of Resilience addressed COVID-19 critical needs and equitable health access. During this meeting, it was requested that a monthly briefing memo with updates on the City of Dallas' continuous efforts be provided. The following information highlights the ongoing efforts to address COVID-19 health access disparities:

COVID-19 Vaccinations Data by Race/Ethnicity:

Vaccinations as of May 3, 2021:

Race/Ethnicity	Total Vaccinations	%
	N = 390,779	
White	123,911	31.71%
Hispanic	160,390	41.04%
Black	60,204	15.41%
Asian	37,342	9.59%
American Indian	742	0.19%
Other	6445	1.65%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	469	0.12%

COVID-19 Data by Race/Ethnicity:

COVID-19 reported cases as of May 3, 2021:

Race/Ethnicity	Patient Count
African American*	34,422
Asian	8,885
Hispanic**	77,916
White	61,539
Other***	14,979
Unknown	58,962

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This data can be found at <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/>.

Race/Ethnicity as reported by individuals via data provided by DCHHS and is for Dallas County only.

*African American includes African American; Black; Black, Non-Hispanic.

**Hispanic includes Hispanic; White, Hispanic; Black, Hispanic; Pacific-Islander, Hispanic.

***Other includes Non-Hispanic; Two or more races reported; American Indian, Non-Hispanic.

Characteristics of cumulative hospitalized confirmed COVID-19 cases, Dallas County, March 10, 2020 – May 3, 2021:

Race/Ethnicity	Hospitalized Cases
	N = 19,749
White	4,984
Hispanic	7,578
Black	4,985
Asian	567
Other	552
Not Reported/Unknown	1,083

Male	10,196
Female	9,519

This data can be found at <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/>.

*Percentages can also be calculated to exclude cases for which race/ethnicity was not reported.

Characteristics of cumulative confirmed COVID-19 deaths, Dallas County, March 10, 2020 – April 30, 2021.

Race/Ethnicity	Confirmed Deaths	%
	N = 3377	
White	1,075	32.13%
Hispanic	1,370	40.94%
Black	748	22.36%
Asian	147	4.39%
American Indian	6	0.18%

Male	2,034	60.23%
Female	1,334	39.77%

Death classified as confirmed if decedent was a Dallas County resident with a positive molecular test. Data are obtained from ME office, hospitals, and vital statistics.

*Percentages calculated among those with known underlying health conditions or race/ethnicity as reported by medical provider.

**2019 U.S. Census population estimates for Dallas County.

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The Collin/Denton County maps are no longer available on the PCCI website.

Testing:

- The Office of Emergency Management continues to coordinate both community testing sites as well as in-home testing options. MCI Diagnostics continues to help us serve City of Dallas residents who do not have transportation to community testing sites and have a maximum capacity of 60 tests per day. We have a cumulative testing number of about 330,000 as of March 31, 2021. MCI Diagnostics has performed nearly 1,060 in-home tests through March. Parkland has closed the walk-up testing sites due to low demand, but the drive-thru sites remain open.

Vaccinations:

- The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continues to coordinate our vaccination efforts with Dallas County. The City of Dallas has ceased vaccine operations at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center. During that operation, the City administered 15,204 first doses and 13,671 second doses to residents. The City has contracted with American Medical Response (AMR) to conduct turnkey vaccination operations at The Potter's House Church overflow parking lot. Since they began operations on March 4, 2021, they have administered over 23,000 first doses. The Potter's House site began administering second doses last week. The site is open Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. AMR now has a call center up and running for resident questions.
- We are following State vaccination guidelines for residents which are also prioritized by Dallas County and the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation (PCCI) through their Vulnerability Index. We continue to work toward equitable vaccination distribution by also concentrating on the 17 zip codes identified for the Community Vaccination Center (CVC).
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in partnership with the City of Dallas and Dallas County, has concluded its first dose operations with the City of Dallas and Dallas County. They are in the process of conducting second dose operations and closing the CVC. Dallas County has asked for an extension of this site to continue to focus on economically disadvantaged populations. OEM and DFR have also partnered with the Visiting Nurses Association of Texas (VNA)/Meals on Wheels to provide in-home vaccinations to those residents who cannot get to a vaccination hub or pharmacy by distributing the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine as it is available.
- The in-home vaccination program provides vaccinations to City of Dallas residents who are considered homebound or shut-in (defined as a person who is confined to home, a room, or bed because of illness or incapacity) and not for persons that may not have transportation to get to a vaccination site. The program is a partnership with VNA, Dallas Fire Rescue (DFR), and OEM. We are first vaccinating Meals on Wheels/VNA clients wishing to be vaccinated and then adding in residents who reached out to OEM. To date, DFR has provided about 200 first dose vaccinations to our in-home residents.
- Vaccinations are done Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. as needed. The teams go to the resident's homes, administer the vaccine, and observe the resident for reaction. The City of Dallas has established an email address, mobilevaccine@dallascityhall.com, for residents in need of in-home vaccinations.

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- OEM hosted five “pop-up” community vaccination clinics on Friday, April 30, 2021 and Saturday, May 5, 2021. The Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation (PCCI) provided OEM with 25 census blocks that had the lowest vaccination rates. This data was used to identify apartment communities that made up most of the population in those blocks.
- To ensure the residents in these communities were aware of this opportunity, OEM worked directly with the property management to utilize their communications tools, created informational flyers, and published the sites on social media.
- The teams, staffed by vaccination vendor AMR, were prepared to give 200 vaccinations per day at each location. The results of this weekend’s clinics are as follows:

Location	April 30th Vaccinations	May 1st Vaccinations
6500 S Apartments	22	20
Los Lomas Apartments	16	11
Carousel Court Apartments	17	7
Veranda @ Midtown	50	24
The Emerson	34	22
Total	139	84

- Overall, turnout was far lower than anticipated by both OEM and the apartment management. When speaking with the vaccination teams, who were actively engaging with residents throughout both days, they said that they received significant feedback regarding vaccine hesitancy. OEM plans to continue holding vaccination clinics but is identifying locations that may have higher overall foot traffic. This includes malls, outdoor events, farmer’s markets, as well as some additional apartment complexes near very dense, low-vaccinated areas. As we confirm these dates and locations, we will share that information with you.

Community Outreach:

- Communications, Outreach & Marketing (COM) worked with the Office of Emergency Management and Visiting Nurses Association of Texas to issue a press release in English and Spanish about the availability of in-home vaccinations, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion and Mayor & City Council participated in multicultural media interviews to discuss vaccine options for the mobility impaired. With the Office of Homeless Solutions and Dallas Public Library in partnership with community nonprofits, COM shared resources available to individuals experiencing homelessness including single dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines allocated to Parkland and administered at The Stewpot and The Bridge, as well as assistance registering to receive stimulus checks with DPL volunteer librarians working daily to register clients at The Stewpot. With the Bloomberg Philanthropies-funded Behavioral Insights Team, COM tested different messages via social media to encourage continued mask wearing after the Governor lifted mask requirements and capacity limits indoors. With the Office of Emergency Management, contract vendor AMR, and contract health authority Dallas County, COM continues to

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update the City's COVID-19 website and bilingual self-service COVID-19 information hotline with updated information including expanded eligibility for vaccine recipients; new vaccination locations including The Potter's House; the closure of walk-up testing sites; and community events to register for the vaccine wait list.

- Since December 2020, the Office of Equity and Inclusion – Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs Division (WCIA) has been working with ImmSchools and the Concilio to host monthly “Learning Circles” to provide information about the safety of the vaccine among Spanish speaking immigrant communities. In these learning circles, immigrant neighborhood leaders have a chance to speak with subject matter experts to answer their questions about the vaccine and community resources.
- WCIA has attended weekly social distanced outdoor community outreach events with Dallas Police Department UNIDOS since March 7, 2021 to share personal protective equipment and flyers on how to register for the vaccine. Approximately 200 families have been served in zip codes with low vaccination rates through WCIA partnership with UNIDOS. Additionally, WCIA partnered with The Concilio, Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and Dallas County to host a vaccination registration and food give away on April 24 in 75217. 709 individuals in the Pleasant Grove area were served.
- WCIA has participated in Spanish radio interviews every two weeks to share information about the Dallas County vaccine registration information as it becomes available. Additionally, WCIA participated in a live interview on Univision with Parkland Clinical Director Dr. Roberto de la Cruz. The Univision interview focused on the news about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, sharing that residents do not need insurance and that undocumented residents should have access to the vaccine. The interview has [received 9.5K views](#).
- The Office of Equity and Inclusion – Human Rights Division worked with Office of Community Care to deliver Spanish/English text message reminder and link to Dallas County website to WIC clients. Additionally, WIC Centers have begun distributing vaccine registration flyers with every curbside delivery.
- WCIA has worked with Resilience Division to identify languages spoken in Dallas. This data was provided to the Dallas County to assist with identifying ways to increase access to language diverse communities.
- Dallas Park & Recreation staff began accepting phone calls late January to help Dallas' senior population with COVID-19 Vaccination Registration. Residents could contact five recreation centers to sign up for the shot and Dallas Park & Recreation partnered with Dallas County to provide rides for seniors from the recreation centers to the Fair Park site. A special bus lane was created to quickly administer shots to these populations. During the 14 registration events, 524 residents were transported to Fair Park. Several other residents registered through the recreation centers and chose to drive themselves for additional vaccinations. Bus rides were coordinated from the following recreation centers: Zaragoza, Weiss, Cummings, MLK, Pleasant Oaks, Fireside, Johnson, Harry Stone, Beckley-Saner, Singing Hills, Kiest, and Bachman. Links to media coverage on the events are linked below:

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- “Lack of Transportation No Longer Excuse for Many Wanting COVID-19 Vaccine in Dallas” (CBS):
<https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2021/03/16/transportation-covid-19-vaccine-dallas/>
- “Comienza vacunación en el norte de Texas para personas de 50 años o más” (Telemundo):
<https://www.telemundodallas.com/noticias/texas/comienza-vacunacion-en-el-norte-de-texas-para-personas-de-50-anos-o-mas/2150302/>

Eviction Assistance Initiative:

- The eviction assistance initiative was approved by City Council on January 13, 2021. Since that time Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas has provided legal services to tenants facing eviction due to negative impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Legal services include advice, brief services, and full legal representation. The number of households assisted in January and February 2021 combined include 134 households. We are currently awaiting reporting for March 2021.
- Community outreach has been facilitated by both Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and The Concilio. Their combined efforts have provided Dallas communities information regarding tenant protections and landlord responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Outreach has been conducted through various means, including social media, promotoras, and workshops. On March 23, 2021, the Eviction Assistance Initiative Landlord Training was successfully completed in partnership with the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas and included over 100 members in attendance.
- On March 28th, 2021, the CDC extended its Eviction Moratorium to June 30, 2021. However, the Texas Supreme Court did not extend Emergency Order 34 that required Texas Courts adhere to the CDC Moratorium. Upon the expiration of Emergency Order 34 on March 31, 2021, the Texas Justice Court Training Center issued guidance to Texas Justice Courts stating Texas Courts are under no obligation to enforce the CDC order. Due to this update, the number of eviction cases in the State of Texas are expected to increase substantially should Texas Judges decide to not enforce the CDC Eviction Moratorium. The services provided by the Eviction Assistance Initiative will be of utmost importance to Dallas tenants should eviction cases increase in light of the most recent moratorium updates.

Internet Access:

The Dallas Public Library currently has 100 Chromebook/Hotspot paired bundles that have been available for check-out since early March. Each bundle is available for a 30-day check-out period, but many have returned them earlier. The 100 Chromebook bundles have checked out 178 times since circulation began in early March. We anticipate having the 1125 laptop/hotspot bundles ready for customer check-out in mid-May. The Microsoft license has been acquired, the computer image completed, and final user acceptance testing is taking place. The Library is also creating a

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short introductory video that will be imbedded on the screen to help customers get started with using the laptop.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at liz.cedillopereira@dallascityhall.com if you have any questions about these efforts.



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Chief of Equity and Inclusion

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