



# COVID-19 Update

September 21, 2021

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DESMAR WALKES MD, HEALTH AUTHORITY/MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
CITY OF AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY



# Hospital Joint Statement:

*The capacity challenges are impacting all of the hospitals across the Central Texas region.*

*We want to continue to provide lifesaving care for patients who have a heart attack, a stroke, or are injured in a car wreck. To do that, **we need your help.***

*To make sure our hospitals have enough space to care for our community — including you and your loved ones who may unexpectedly need hospital care — we urge you to get your COVID-19 vaccine, wear a mask and practice physical distancing.*

*Please do your part to cut down on the number of COVID cases in our community, and help us care for you.*



† Health Authority and Hospital Systems Provide Joint Statement Regarding COVID-19 Situation

"Recent headlines have indicated a downward trend in COVID-19 cases in our community. While the overall number of cases has declined from the peak during this recent third surge, it is important for all Central Texas residents to have the full picture of where we are in this pandemic so that you may plan accordingly for you, your family and friends, and workplaces.

Hospital COVID admissions are declining, but we are not past this surge yet. Since July, our hospitals in the greater Austin area have had more than 3,500 COVID inpatients, and more than 1,000 of those required care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Unlike previous COVID surges, all of the acute care hospitals were very full with non-COVID care when this surge started. ICUs across the Austin area are now completely full, and many hospitals are surging beyond their licensed ICU space to provide ICU-level care to COVID patients in need. The vast majority of these COVID patients are on ventilators, and approximately 90% of them are unvaccinated. Generally, patients who have been hospitalized during this surge are sicker and staying in the hospital longer. Due to the overcrowding, many patients from regional and rural hospitals that depend on Austin-area hospitals for complex care have not been able to be transferred.

In this current surge, only a third of hospitalized patients are over 65 years old. During the previous surge, patients over 65 made up over 50% of hospital patients. Sadly, the mortality rate for hospitalized patients is higher for this COVID surge than our last surge and is now approaching 10%. We are seeing an alarming number of otherwise young and healthy patients, including pregnant patients, develop severe COVID.

*The capacity challenges are impacting all of the hospitals across the Central Texas region. We want to continue to provide lifesaving care for patients who have a heart attack, a stroke, or are injured in a car wreck. To do that, **we need your help.** To make sure our hospitals have enough space to care for our community — including you and your loved ones who may unexpectedly need hospital care — we urge you to get your COVID-19 vaccine, wear a mask and practice physical distancing. Please do your part to cut down on the number of COVID cases in our community, and help us care for you.*

If you have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, we join our physician colleagues across the community in strongly urging everyone 12 and over to do so. Data shows that vaccines are safe, effective and a proven way to avoid being critically ill as a result of COVID."

- Desmar Walkes, M.D., Medical Director/Health Authority, City of Austin
- Samson Jesudass, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer, Ascension Texas,
- Kenneth W. Mitchell, M.D., Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, St. David's HealthCare
- Robin Watson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Baylor Scott & White Health Greater Austin Region.

[AustinTexas.gov/COVID19](https://austintexas.gov/COVID19)

# MSA Daily Counts

Report Refreshed: 9/20/2021 11:30:04

Data Up To: 09/20/2021

Select Reporting Date

5/28/2020

9/20/2021

Select Facility Name

Search

- ☐ Alternative Care Site
- ☐ Ascension Health
- ☐ Baylor Scott & White
- ☐ St. David's

09/20/2021

505

CV19 Inpatients

208

CV19 ICU Inpatients

143

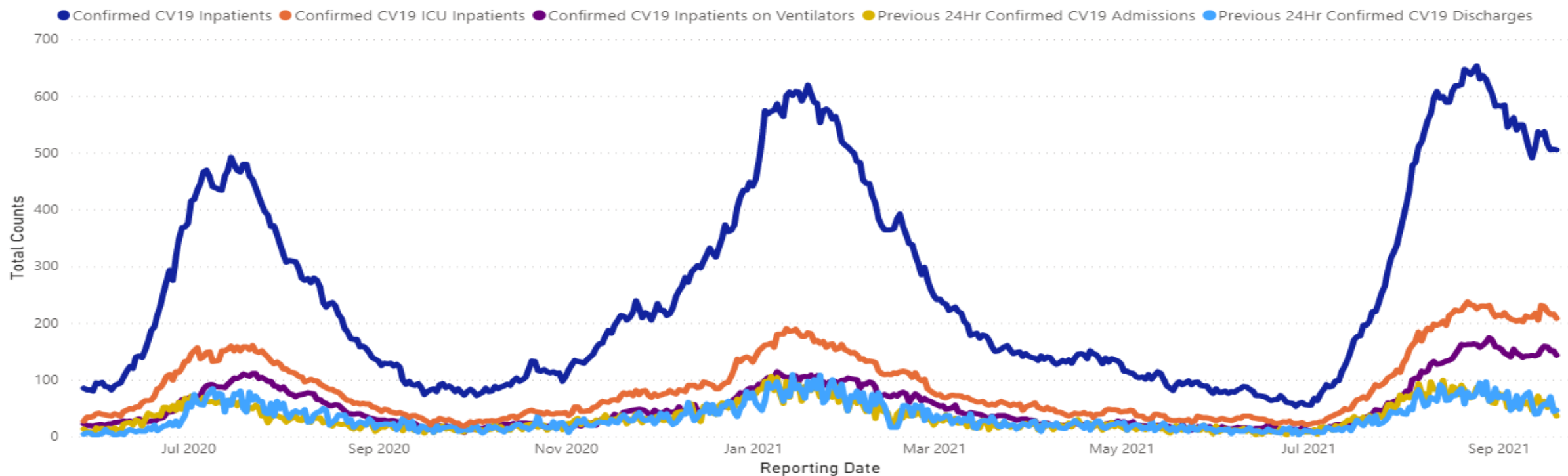
CV19 Inpatients on Vent

36

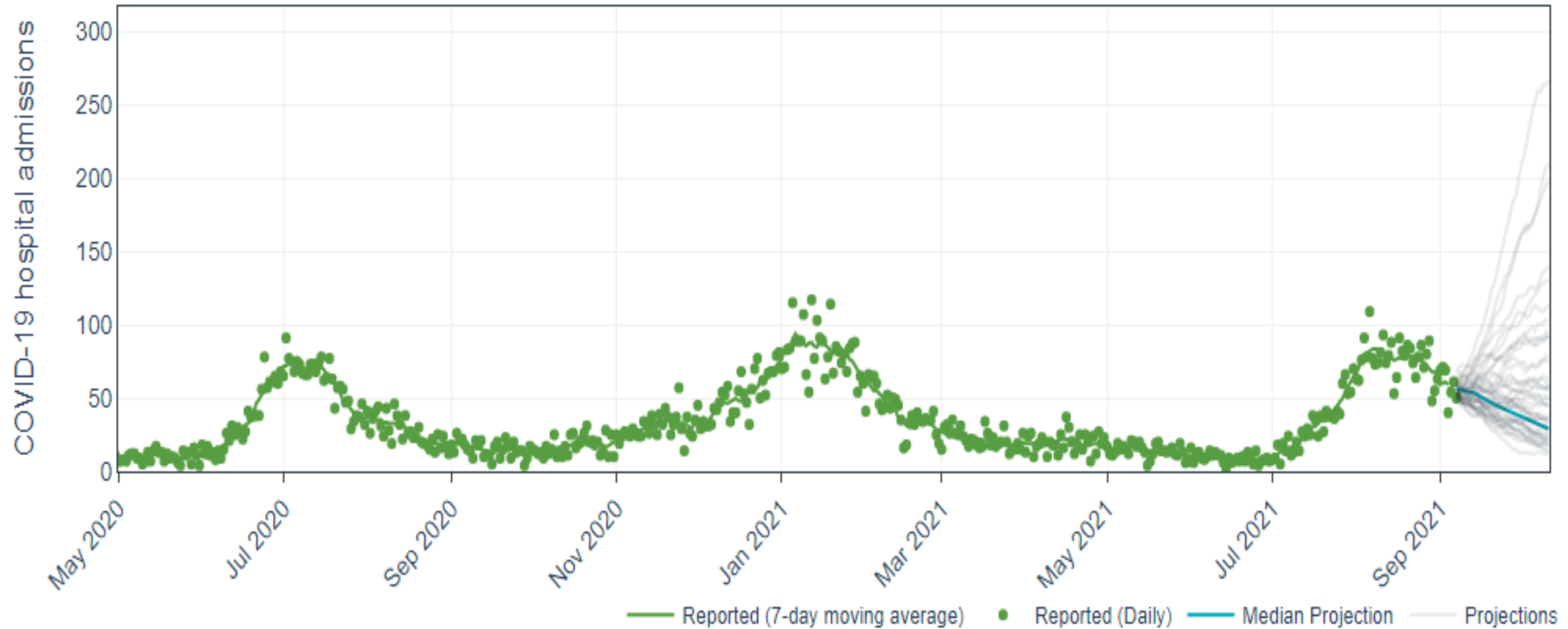
Previous 24Hr Admissions

46

Previous 24Hr Discharges



## Daily COVID-19 Hospital Admissions in the Austin-Round Rock MSA (7 day moving average)



Click and drag on the plot to zoom-in and double-click to zoom-out completely. The icons at the top right of each graph will provide you with additional options.

# SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant 99%

After Delta became the most common variant\*,  
fully vaccinated people had reduced risk<sup>†</sup> of...

INFECTION

**5X**

HOSPITALIZATION

**>10X**

DEATH

**>10X**

Vaccination offers strong  
protection against COVID-19

\* June 20-July 17, 2021

<sup>†</sup> Compared with people not fully vaccinated

bit.ly/MMWR91021

MMWR

Use the controls to focus on a specific region and/or 1-week interval

HHS Region

USA

● Nowcast On

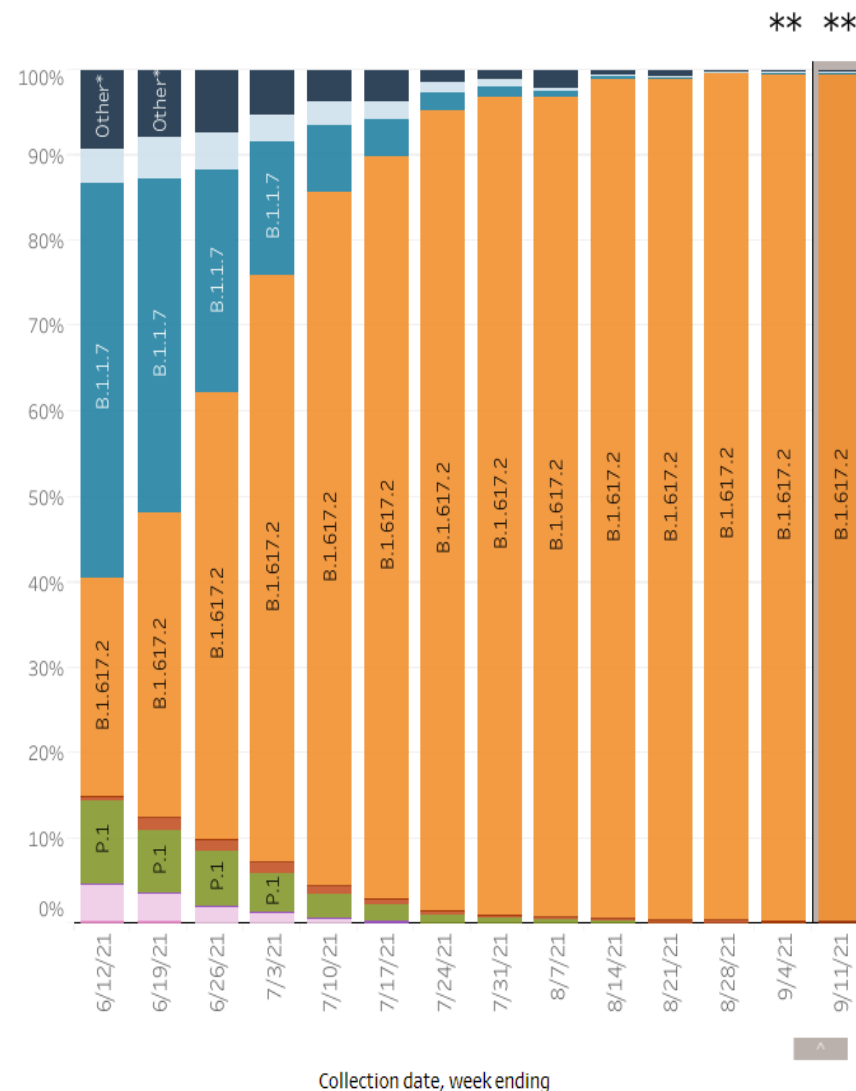
○ Nowcast Off

Week Ending

9/11/2021

United States: 6/6/2021 – 9/11/2021

United States: 9/5/2021 – 9/11/2021 NOWCAST



USA

WHO label	Lineage #	Type	%Total	95%PI
Alpha	B.1.1.7	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Beta	B.1.351	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Gamma	P.1	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Delta	B.1.617.2	VOC	99.4%	98.6-100.0%
	AY.1	VOC	0.2%	0.0-0.7%
	AY.2	VOC	0.1%	0.0-0.5%
Eta	B.1.525	VOI	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Iota	B.1.526	VOI	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Kappa	B.1.617.1	VOI	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Mu	B.1.621		0.1%	0.0-0.5%
N/A	B.1.617.3	VOI	0.0%	0.0-0.2%
Other	Other*		0.2%	0.0-0.7%

\* Enumerated lineages are VOI/VOC or are circulating >1% in at least one HHS region during at least one two week period; remaining lineages are aggregated as "Other".

\*\* These data include Nowcast estimates, which are modeled projections that may differ from weighted estimates generated at later dates

# Sublineages of P.1, B.1.351 and B.1.621 are aggregated with the parent lineage and included in parent lineage's proportion. Q.1-Q.8 are aggregated with B.1.1.7. AY.3-AY.25 are aggregated with B.1.617.2.

Collection date, week ending



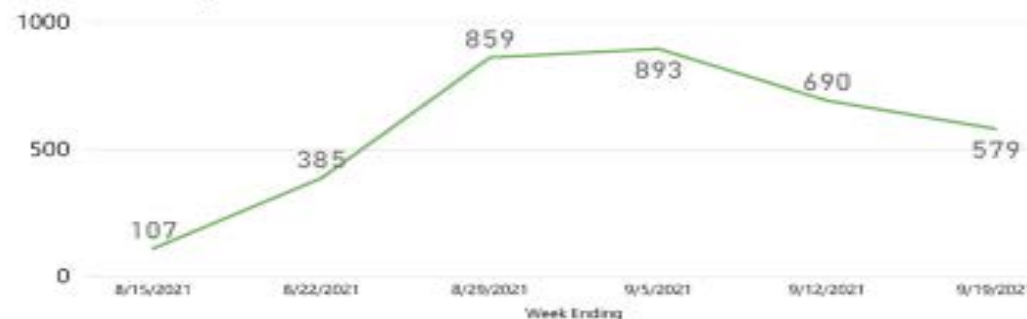


## COVID-19 School Cases

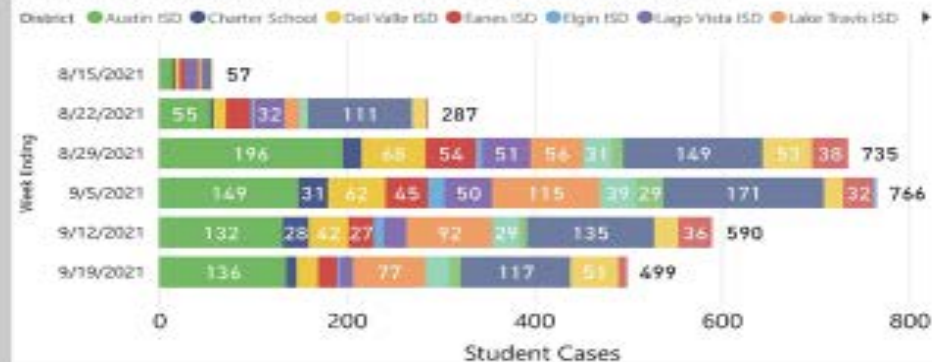
Data Updated  
9/20/2021

Cases Reported 8/9/2021 - 9/19/2021

### Total Cases by Week



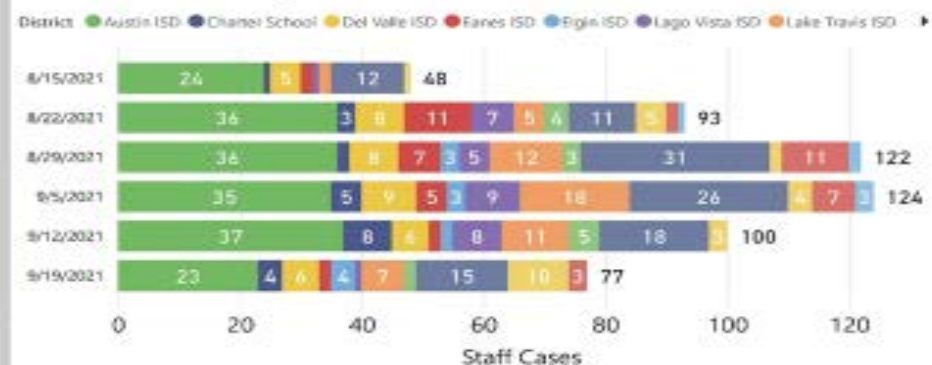
### Total Student Cases by Week and School District



### Total Cases by Week and Case Activity Type



### Total Staff Cases by Week and School District



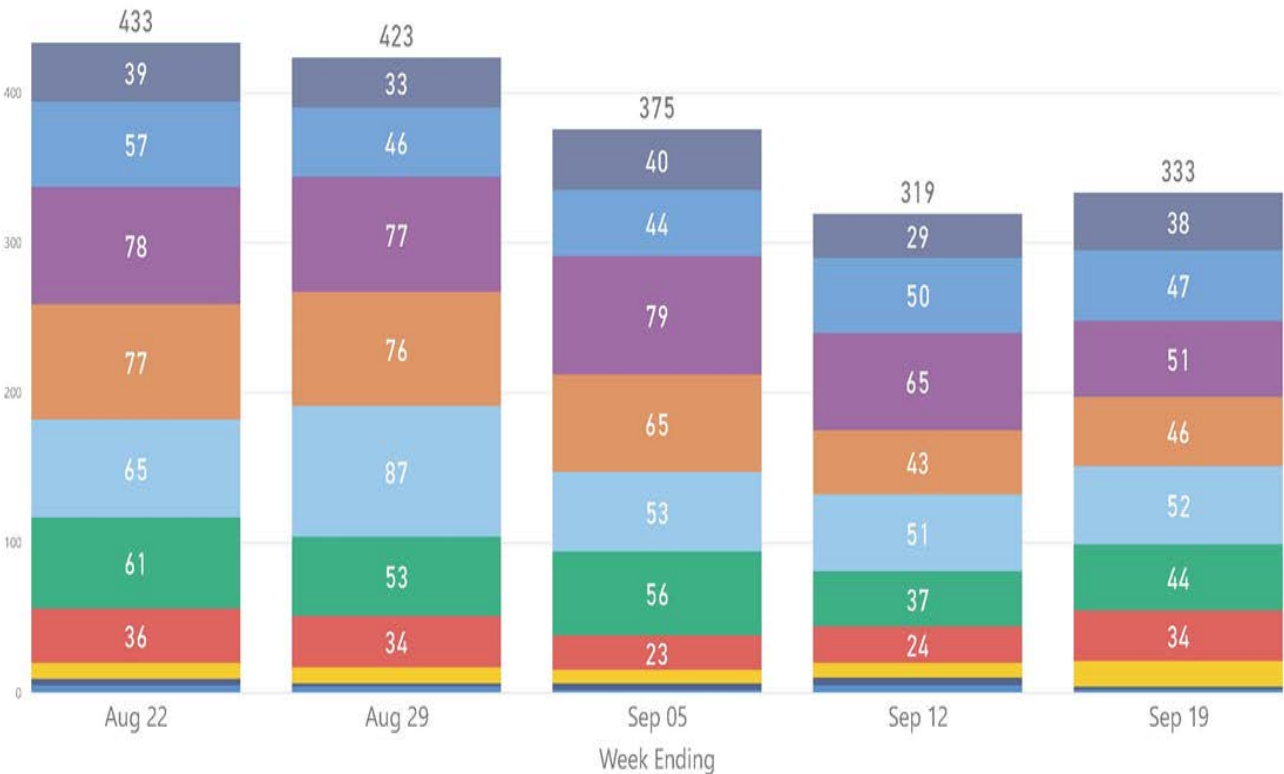
# Weekly Austin MSA COVID-19 Patient Hospital Admissions by Age Group

Data as of 9/20/2021

Week Ending

8/22/2021 9/19/2021

Age Group <1 1-9 10-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80+



# Austin MSA COVID-19 Patients Under 18 Years of Age

Admissions 7/1/2021-9/19/2021 (Data as of 9/20/2021)

Date of Admission

7/1/2021 9/19/2021

Count of Patients Under 18 for Selected Reporting Period

139

Count of Patients Under 18 Admitted to ICU During Stay

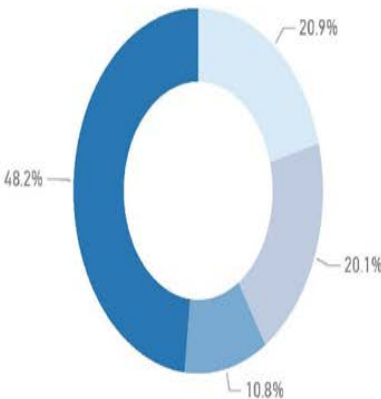
45

Count of Patients Under 18 on Ventilator During Stay

4

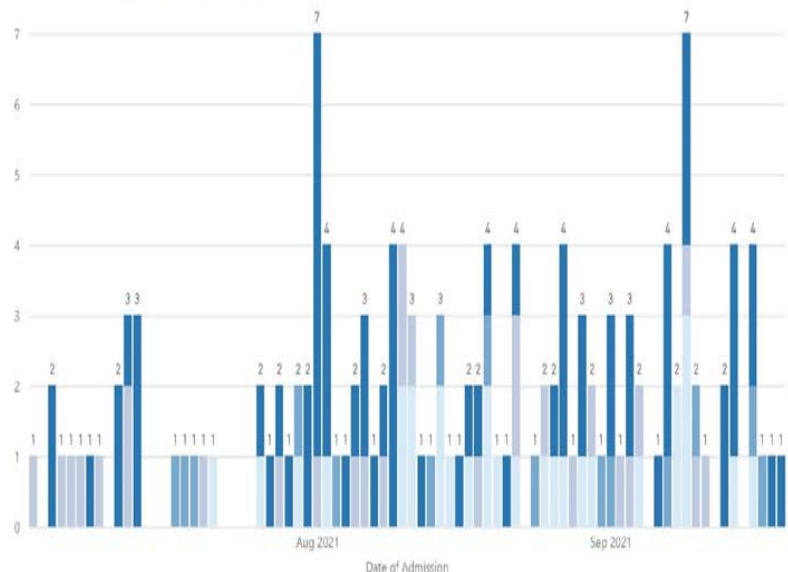
Percentage of Austin MSA COVID-19 Patients Under 18 Years of Age

Age Group <1 1-4 5-11 12-17



Austin MSA COVID-19 Patients Under 18 Years of Age by Date of Admission

Child Age Group <1 1-4 5-11 12-17



## Austin MSA COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Date of Admission 7/1/2020-9/16/2021

admission\_date

7/1/2021 9/16/2021

Total Patients

3508

Total Travis County  
Residents Hospitalized

1799

Total ICU Patients

1005

Total Patients on  
Ventilator

513

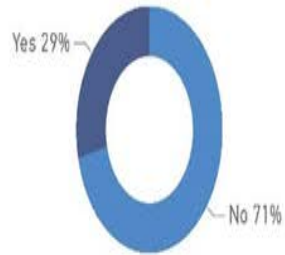
Average Length of Hospital Stay

7.6 days

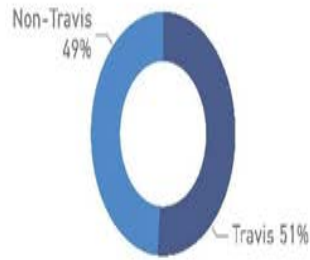
Average Length of ICU Stay

9.4 days

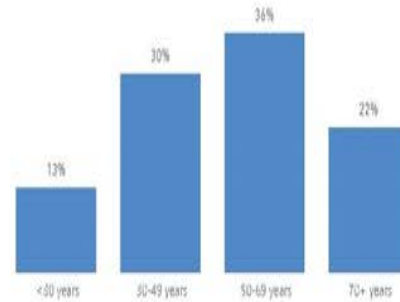
Patients Admitted to ICU



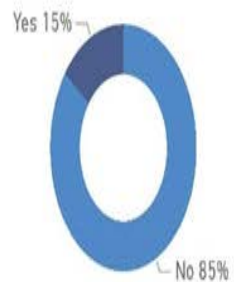
Travis Co Residents Hospitalized



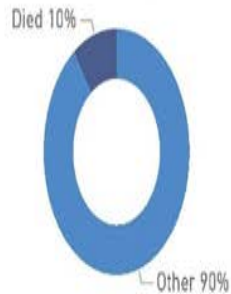
Age Group Distribution of Hospitalized Patients



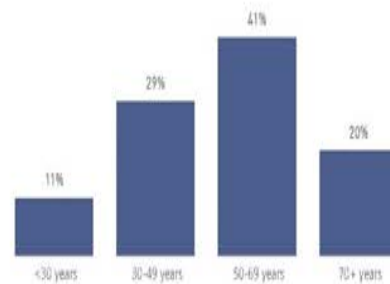
Patients on Ventilator



Patient Outcomes (Discharge Status)



Age Group Distribution of ICU Patients



## Austin MSA COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Date of Admission 10/16/2020-5/16/2021

admission\_date

10/16/2020 5/16/2021

Total Patients

6747

Total Travis County  
Residents Hospitalized

3858

Total ICU Patients

1652

Total Patients on  
Ventilator

710

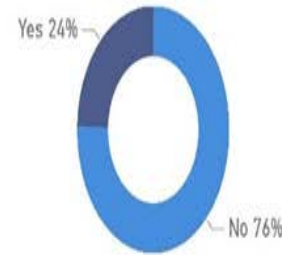
Average Length of Hospital Stay

7.4 days

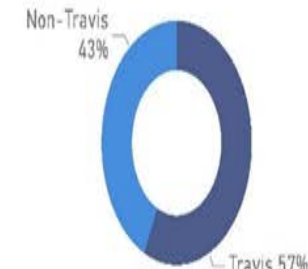
Average Length of ICU Stay

8.5 days

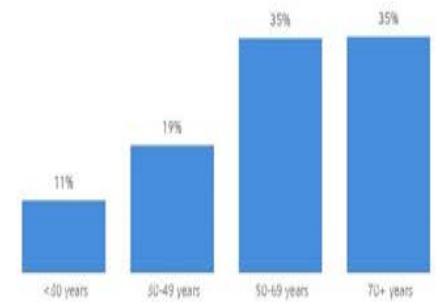
Patients Admitted to ICU



Travis Co Residents Hospitalized



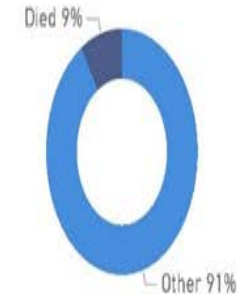
Age Group Distribution of Hospitalized Patients



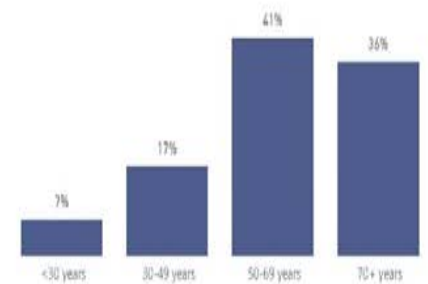
Patients on Ventilator



Patient Outcomes (Discharge Status)

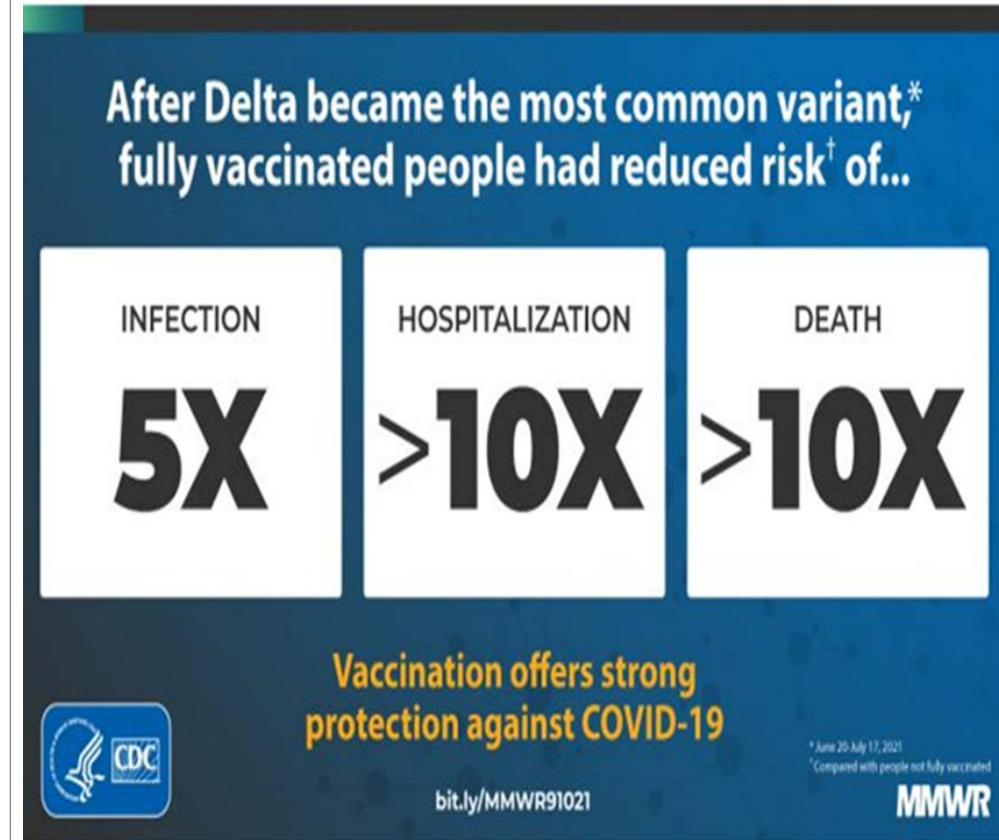
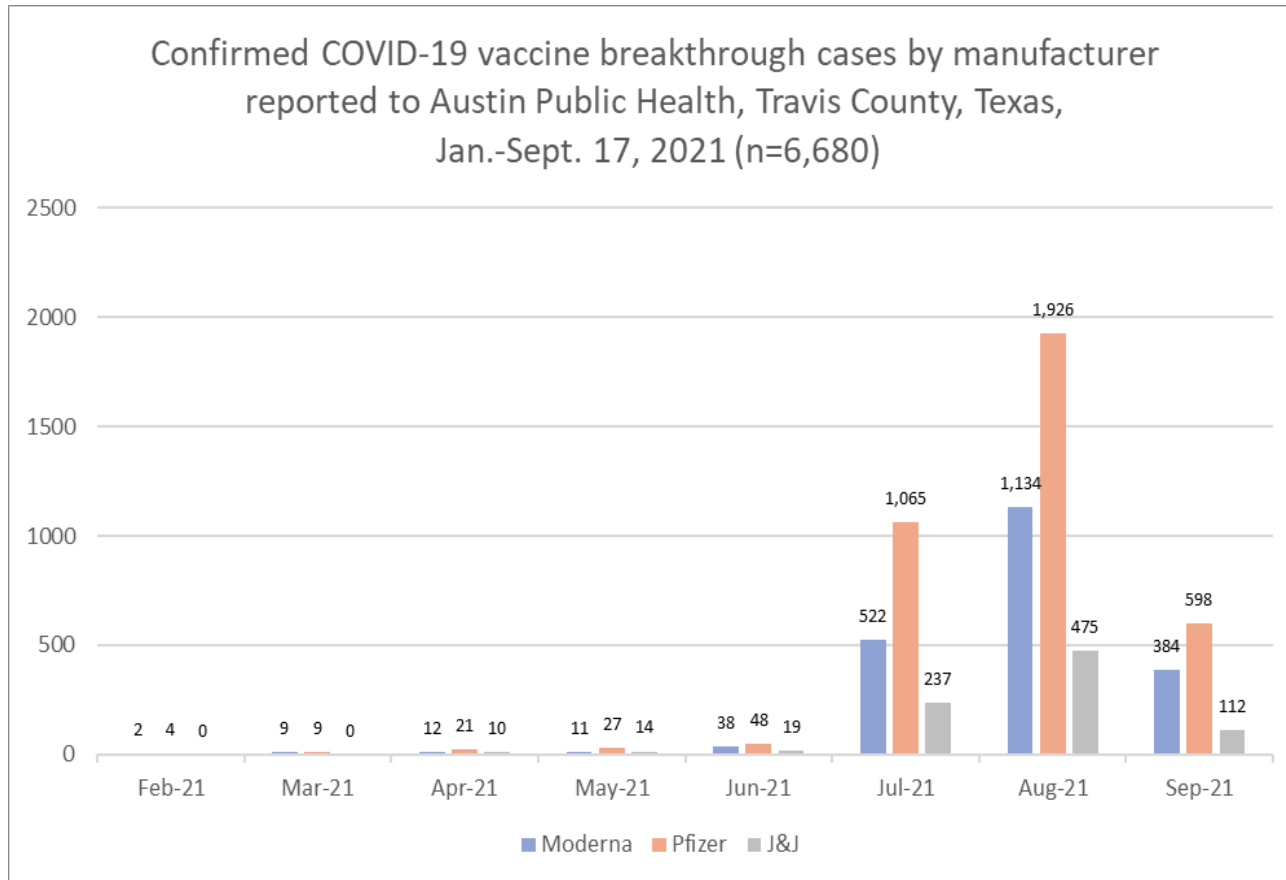


Age Group Distribution of ICU Patients





# 1% Vaccine Breakthrough Cases





## Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Report

APH Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness

Total Cases

3,835

Total Deaths

328

New Cases Last 14 Days

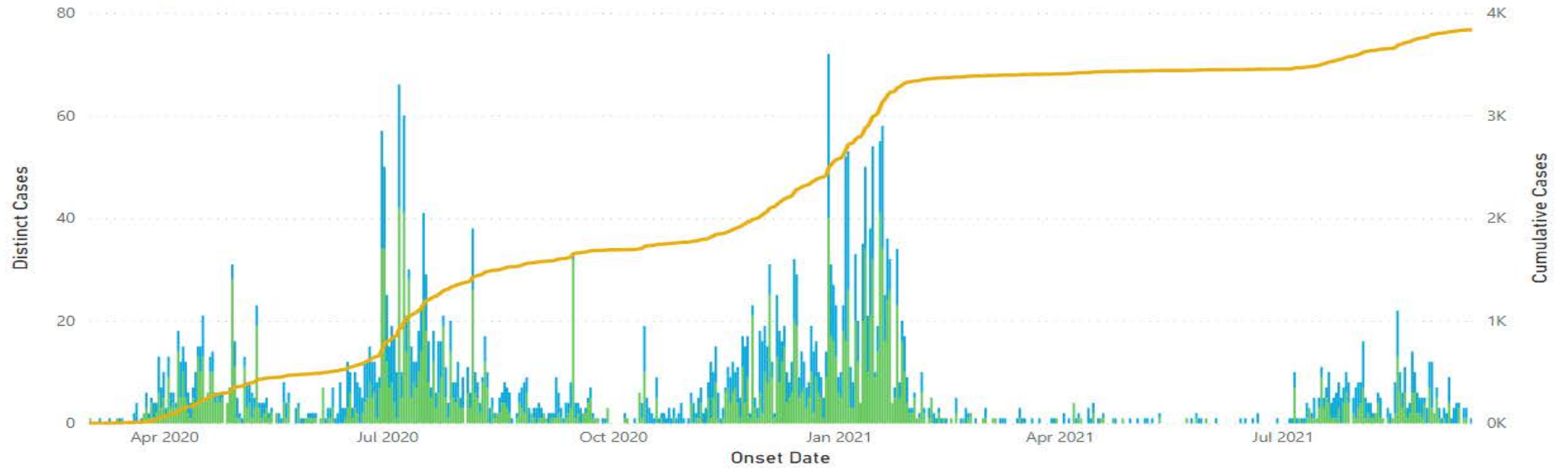
37

New Cases Last 28 Days

136

### Distinct Cases and Cumulative Cases by Onset Date and Role

Role ● Resident ● Staff ● Cumulative Cases

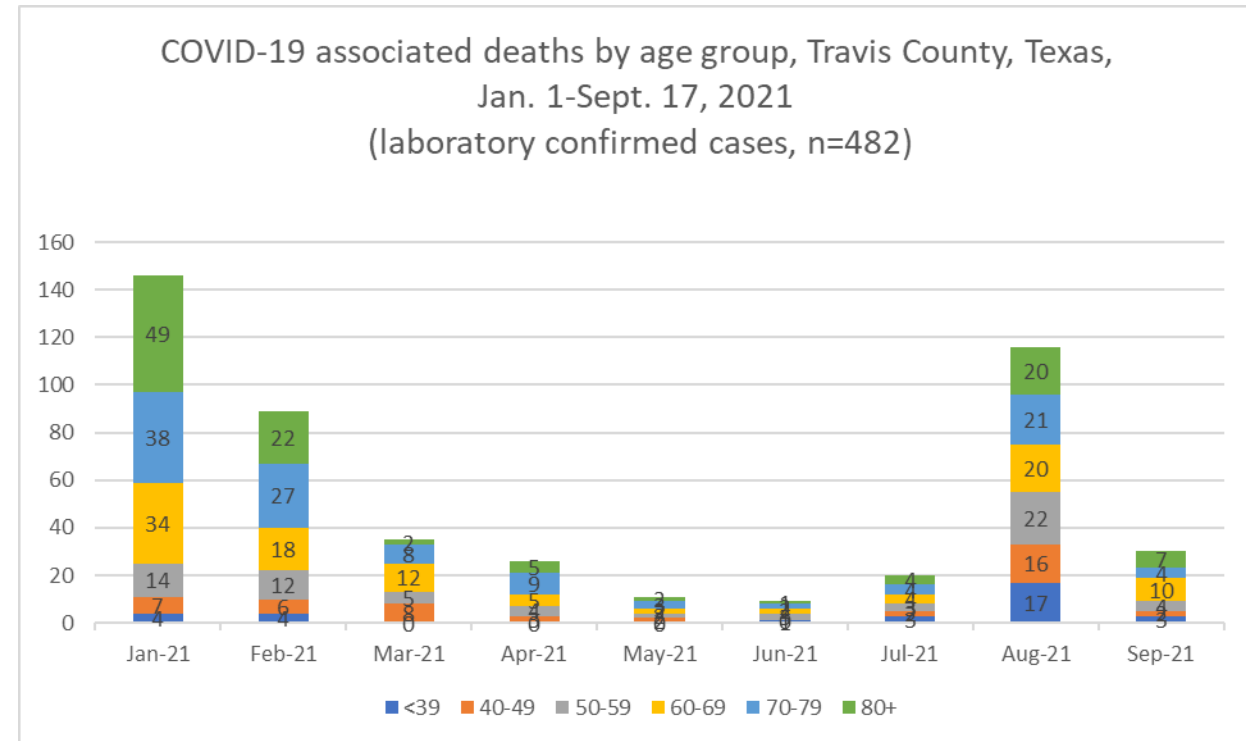


Data As of Date  
9/17/2021 2:18:03 AM

# Fatality Statistics

Total Deaths	1055
Deaths since Jan 2021	482
Fully Vaccinated	7.9%
Race/Ethnicity Impact	50.5%
Sex Impacted	58.5%

\* No one who died received a third dose of vaccine



# Austin MSA COVID-19 Travis County Resident Admissions

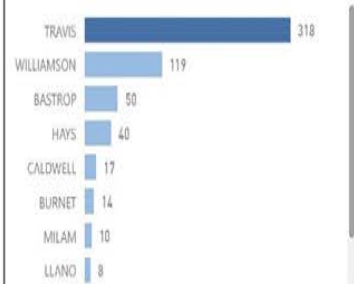
Admissions 8/30/2021-9/12/2021 (Data as of 9/12/2021)

Date of Admission

8/30/2021

9/12/2021

## Counties with Highest Count of Admissions



## Counties with Highest Percentage of Admissions N= 613

County of Residence	Percentage	Count
TRAVIS	51.88%	318
WILLIAMSON	19.41%	119
BASTROP	8.16%	50
HAYS	6.53%	40
CALDWELL	2.77%	17
BURNET	2.28%	14
MILAM	1.63%	10
LLANO	1.31%	8

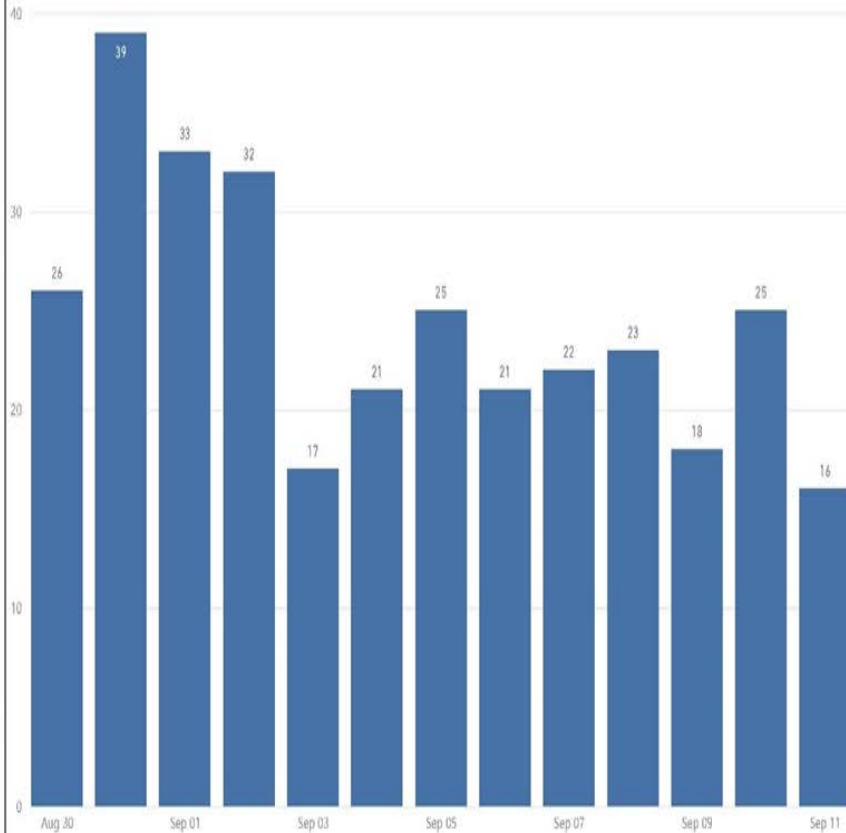
Note: Admissions for which county of patient is unknown were excluded

Total Admissions for Selected Reporting Dates

629

## Travis County COVID-19 Admissions

County of Residence ● TRAVIS



# Austin MSA COVID-19 Travis County Resident Admissions

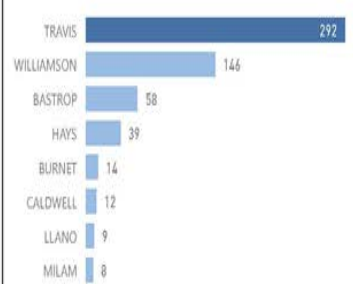
Admissions 9/6/2021-9/19/2021 (Data as of 9/20/2021)

Date of Admission

9/6/2021

9/19/2021

## Counties with Highest Count of Admissions



## Counties with Highest Percentage of Admissions N= 622

County of Residence	Percentage	Count
TRAVIS	47.10%	292
WILLIAMSON	23.55%	146
BASTROP	9.35%	58
HAYS	6.29%	39
BURNET	2.26%	14
CALDWELL	1.94%	12
LLANO	1.45%	9

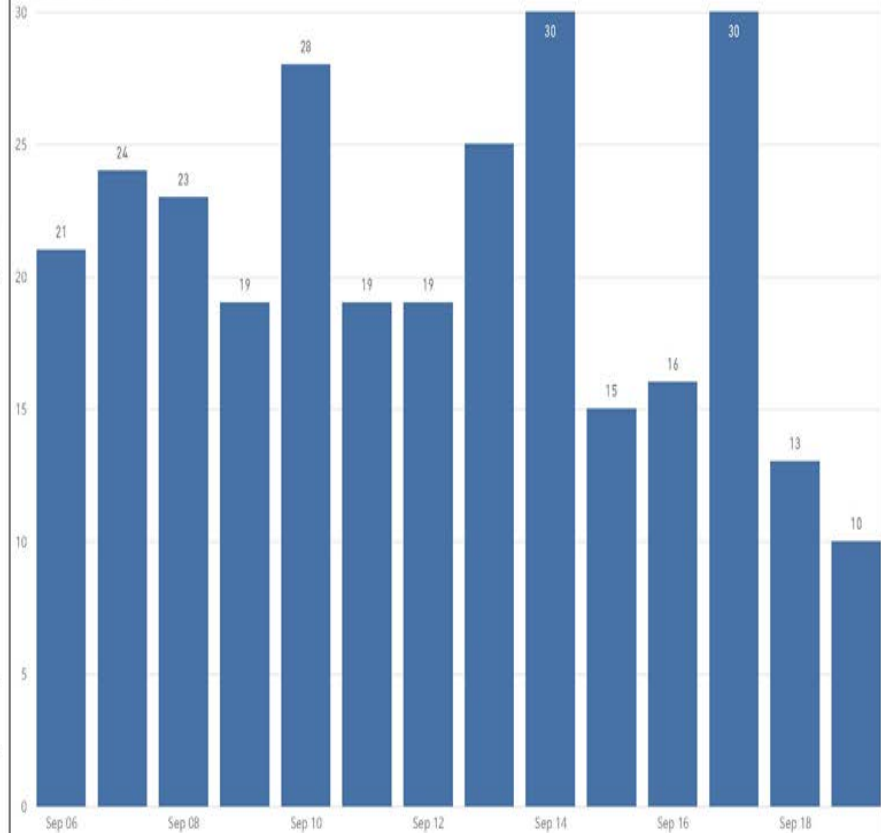
Note: Admissions for which county of patient is unknown were excluded

Total Admissions for Selected Reporting Dates

652

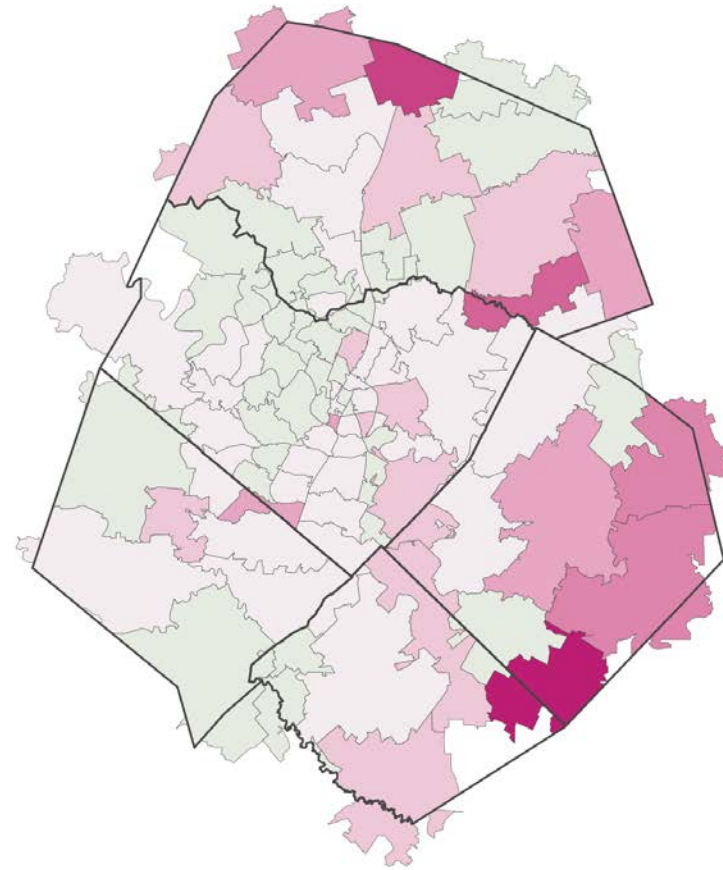
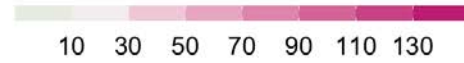
## Travis County COVID-19 Admissions

County of Residence ● TRAVIS



Lower Vaccination Rates  
=  
Higher Covid-19  
ICU Admission Rates

Four-week icu admissions per 100,000





# Thanks to Travis County Residents

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- ✓ Travis County has 70% eligible people fully vaccinated
- ✓ Daily numbers of cases and hospitalizations are declining
- ✓ Positivity rate has dropped

# Call to Action to Protect our Hospitals

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- Help us get everyone else vaccinated – Covid-19 and Flu
- Support businesses that are helping us reach our goals
- Wear masks indoors and in places where you cannot safely social distance
- Stay home if you are sick
  - ❖ Get tested
  - ❖ See a healthcare provider
  - ❖ If eligible get referred for Monoclonal Antibody Therapy



# Thank you

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# COVID-19 Operations Update

September 21, 2021

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ADRIENNE STURRUP, INTERIM DIRECTOR



# COVID-19 Testing Options

## **George Morales Dove Springs Rec Center**

5801 Ainez Dr, Austin, Texas 78744

Tuesday- Saturday

## **St. Johns Testing Site**

7211 N Interstate 35 Frontage Rd, Austin, Texas 78752

Tuesday- Saturday

## **In-Home Testing**

Available Monday through Friday

## **Facility Testing**

Testing offered to senior living facilities, homeless shelters, and other facilities that have identified one positive COVID-19 case

## **Mobile Testing**

(Monday- Friday 8 am - 4 pm).

Mobile testing appointments can be made by calling **512-972-5560**.

**APH Tests (9/13-9/18):  
2,162**





# Vaccine Operations State, Regional and Local

Texas: 70.83% first dose, 60.32% fully vaccinated

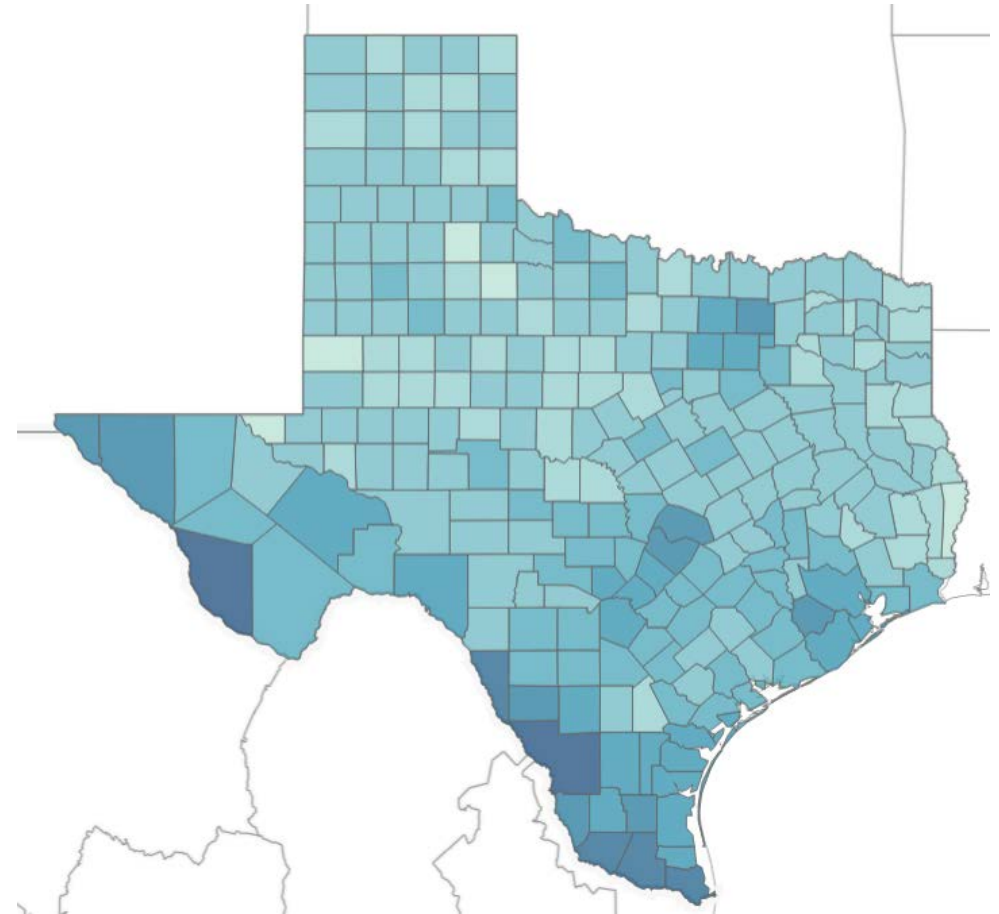
Travis County: 80.28% first dose, **70.03%** fully vaccinated

## Major Metros

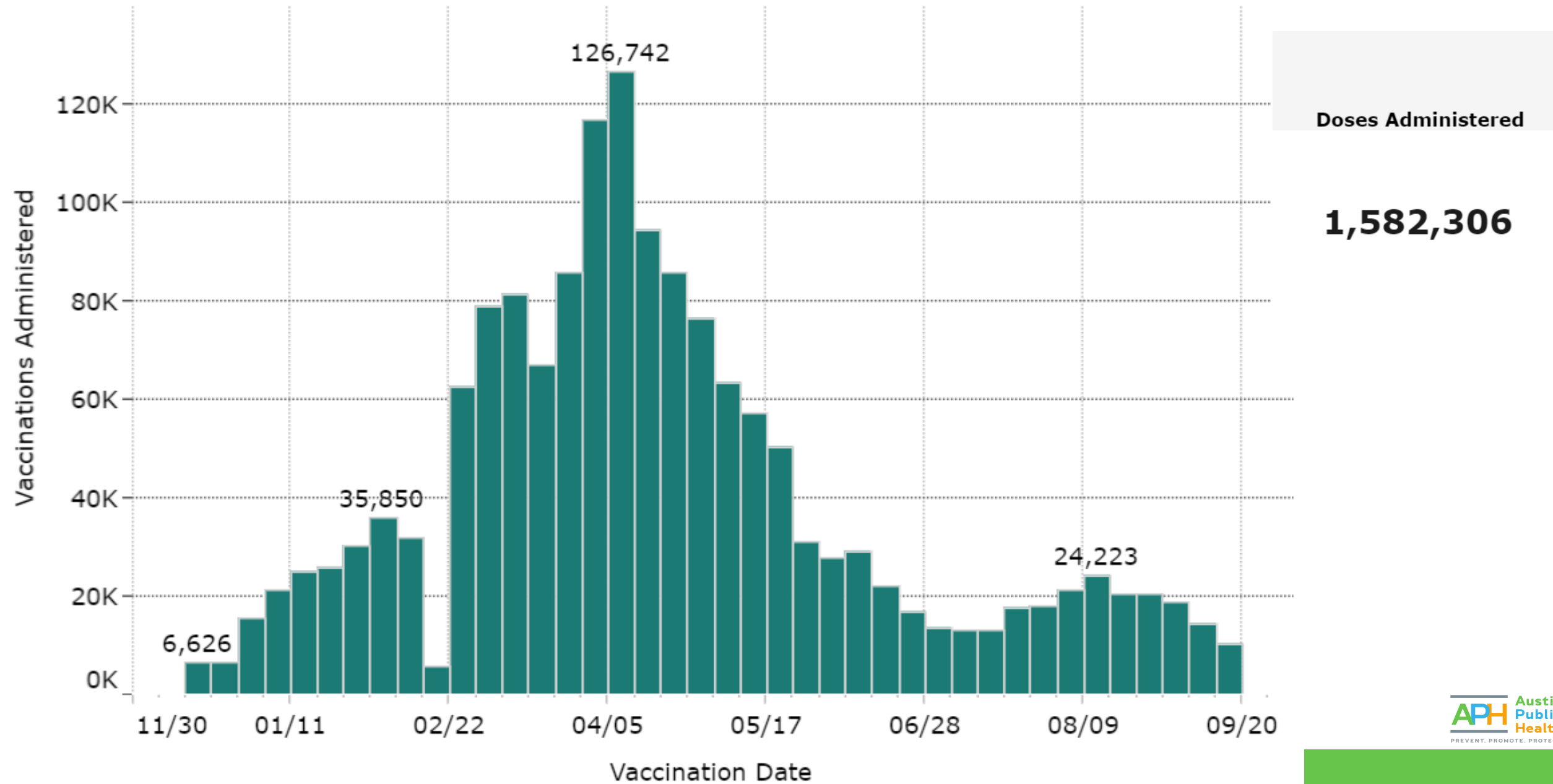
- Tarrant: 65.81% first dose, 57.30% fully vaccinated
- Dallas: 70.41% first dose, 59.46% fully vaccinated
- Bexar: 76.12% first dose, 64.99% fully vaccinated
- Harris: 74.91% first dose, 63.30% fully vaccinated
- El Paso: 87.34% first dose, 75.15% fully vaccinated

## MSA and Travis County Bordering Counties

- Bastrop: 69.54% first dose, 56.24% fully vaccinated
- Blanco: 58.57% first dose, 52.31% fully vaccinated
- Burnet: 59.45% first dose, 50.78% fully vaccinated
- Caldwell: 63.74% first dose, 52.87% fully vaccinated
- Hays: 72.40% first dose, 61.72% fully vaccinated
- Williamson: 78.07% first dose, 68.61% fully vaccinated



# Vaccinations by Week in Travis County



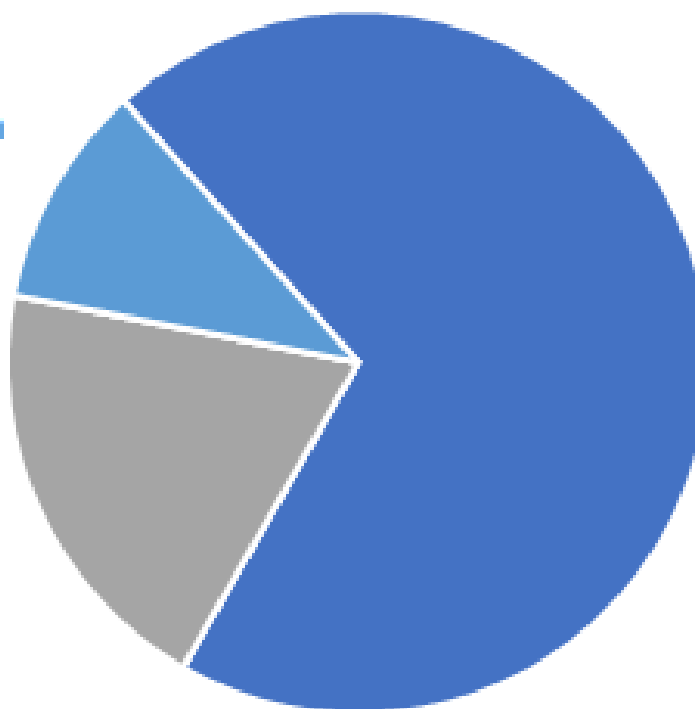
# Travis County Residents Who Have Not Received Second Dose

## Vaccinated Proportion of Eligible Population

**Total Eligible Population (12+): 1,092,827**

**Population  
Vaccinated With  
One Dose,  
112,208, 10%**

**Unvaccinated  
Population,  
215,749, 20%**



**Population Fully  
Vaccinated,  
764,870, 70%**

# Vaccine Dashboard Update

Total Administered by Austin Public Health and CommUnity Care

*We have administered a total of 539 third doses as of 9/18/2021; detailed data will be updated on the dashboard soon.*

Cumulative Doses Administered

**461,715**

Cumulative Dose 1

**248,716**

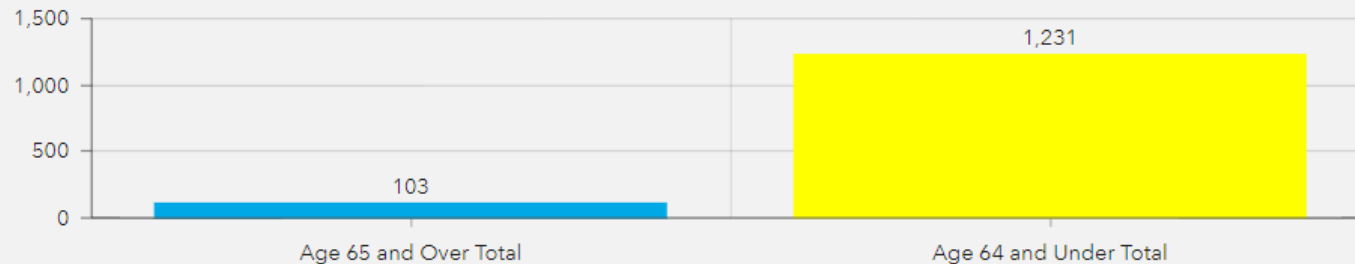
Weekly Doses Administered

**1,334**

Weekly Dose 1

**501**

Weekly Dose by Priority Age Group



Source: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/covid-19-dashboards>

\*Data for week ending 09/18

# Travis County Vaccine Distribution by Provider



## Doses Administered by Organization Type

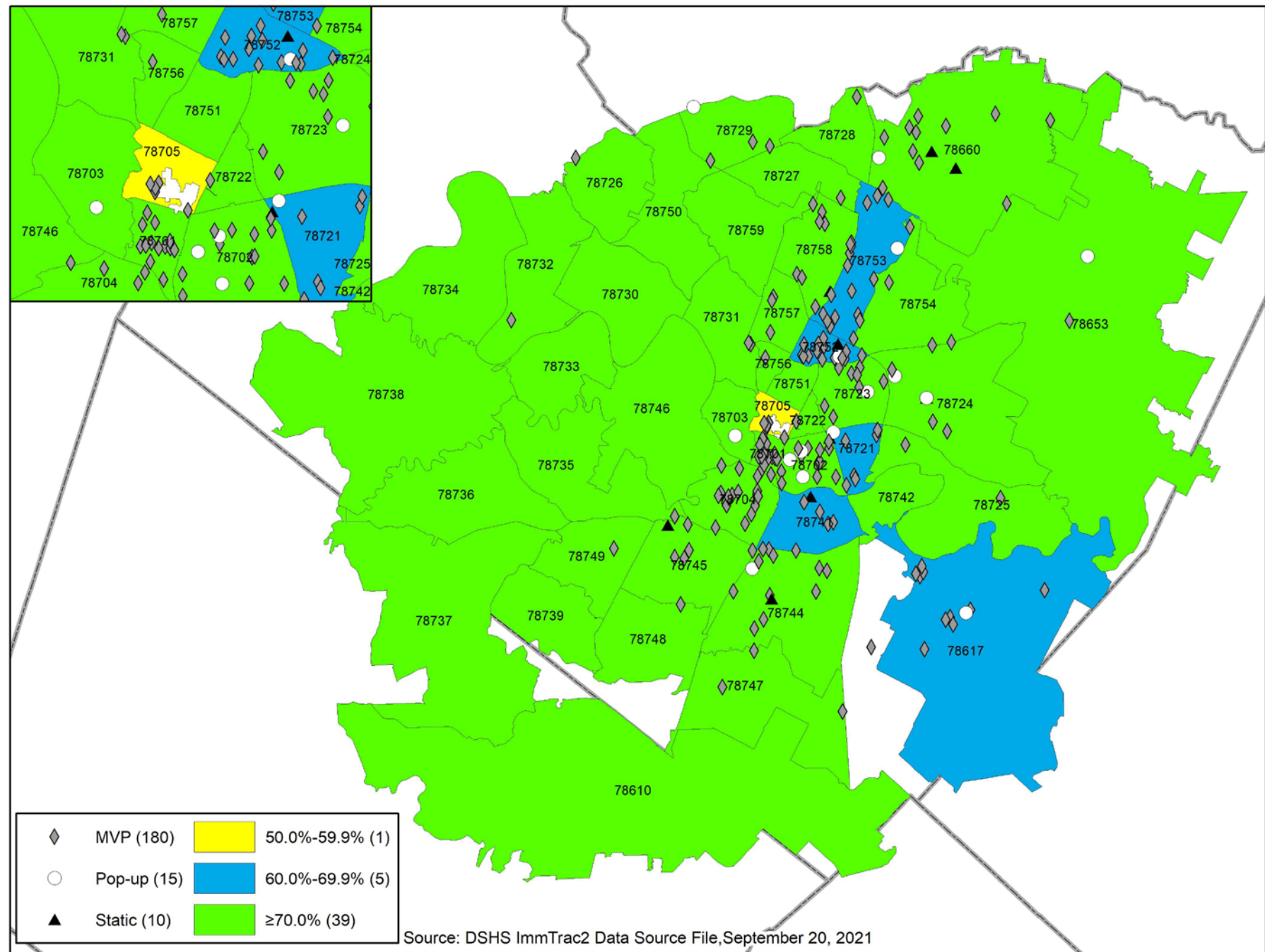
Emergency Services	49,632
Health Center (Community, Federally Qualified, Migrant, Rural)	56,591
Hospital	265,537
Long-Term Care	165
Medical Clinic/Doctor's Office	151,776
Public Health/Government	304,971
Pharmacy	704,917
Other	47,978



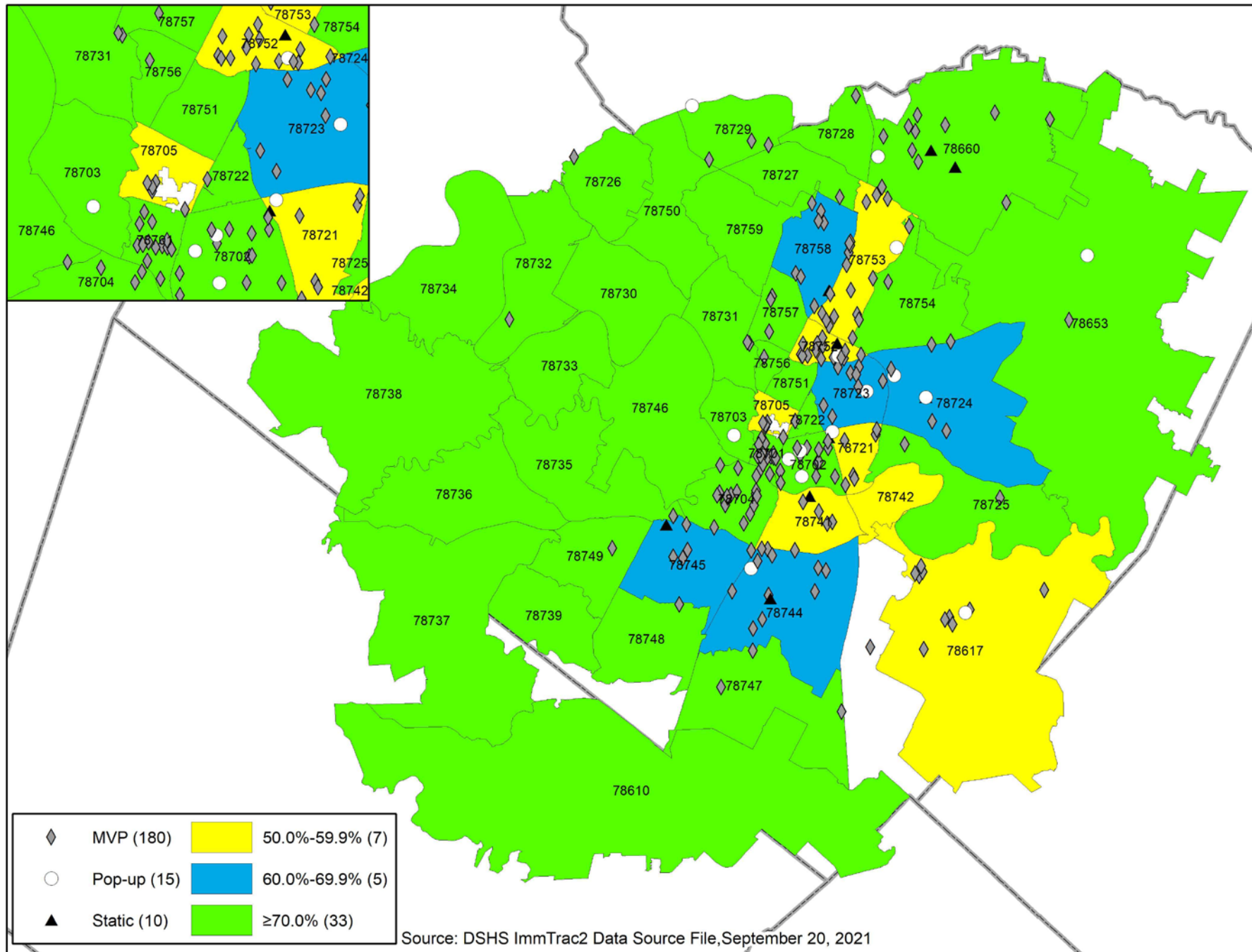
# TXDSHS Vaccine Data for Travis County by Race and Ethnicity

Race	Total Census Population	Estimated Eligible Population (12+)	People Vaccinated with at Least One Dose (Texas DSHS) as of 9/19/2021	People Vaccinated with at Least One Dose Percent	Percent Increase Since 9/12	People Fully Vaccinated (Texas DSHS) of 9/19/2021	People Fully Vaccinated Percent	Percent Increase Since 9/12
Asian	83,467	71,782	63,276	88.15%	0.07% (47)	57,384	79.94%	0.35% (248)
Black or African American	104,003	88,403	35,870	40.58%	0.64% (567)	30,252	34.22%	1.04% (923)
Hispanic or Latino	442,687	349,723	198,890	56.87%	0.59% (2,059)	164,661	47.08%	0.87% (3,036)
White	608,874	541,898	374,561	69.12%	0.36% (1,935)	338,587	62.48%	0.74% (3,998)
Other	34,523	24,857	142,350	*		123,121	*	
Unknown			62,131			50,868		
Total	1,273,554	1,076,661	877,078	81.46%	0.90% (9,647)	764,873	71.04%	1.37% (14,794)

# First Dose Vaccinated Population



# Second Dose/Fully Vaccinated Population



# Vaccine Operations

## Walk-Up Clinics (No Appointment Needed)

### Southeast Branch Library (Moderna & Pfizer)

5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd  
Tuesday & Friday: 3PM - 8PM  
Saturday: 10AM - 2PM

### Little Walnut Creek Branch Library (Moderna & Pfizer)

835 W Rundberg Ln  
Tuesday & Friday: 3PM - 8PM  
Saturday: 10AM - 2PM

### Ana Lark Center (Pfizer)

1400 Tillery St  
Tuesday + Friday: 1PM - 7PM  
Wednesday, Thursday + Saturday:  
9AM-4PM

### Pflugerville Library (Moderna & Pfizer)

1008 W Pfluger St  
Wednesday: 2PM-7PM

### Delco Activity Center (Moderna & Pfizer)

4601 Pecan Brook Dr  
Tuesday-Friday: 9AM-12PM

### Del Valle Opportunity Center (Pfizer)

5301 B Ross Rd  
Saturday: 9AM-2PM

For more vaccine event locations visit  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>

#### Mobile Operations

15 Events This Week Including:

- Circuit of The Americas
- Boys and Girls Club of Austin
- North Austin Muslim Community Center
- Home Visits

# Booster Emergency Use Authorization Status

Advisors to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Pfizer COVID-19 booster shot is safe, effective and recommended for individuals who have been fully vaccinated at least six months and are:

- 65 years and older;
- At high risk of severe COVID-19; and,
- At high risk of occupational exposure

## Next Steps:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) meets to further define these groups.
- Meeting will take place Wednesday, September 22.
- Upon CDC and ACIP, Texas Department of State Health Services will issue guidance.
- Local vaccine providers will update clinical protocol based on CDC and DSHS guidance.
- Booster vaccine distribution begins.

## Evidence Based Recommendations Process





# Resolution 110 Response

## Lessons Learned, Community Engagement and Draft Plans

### Health Communications



### Health Equity



### Information Technology



- Memo is being routed to meet 9/21 Resolution deadline
- Presentation for Council draft strategy will be on 9/28
- APH is assessing lessons learned from response operations
- Engaging community to reflect on overall vaccine response operations, advise on lessons learned, and inform plans
- Multiple events will be held to gather input
- Updating Capital Area Vaccine Distribution Plan to incorporate the booster and pediatric strategies.
- Updated draft plans will be posted for community feedback by 9/30.

# Updates on Community Outreach

Outreach goal: to create a safe, comfortable space through trusted community sources to discuss COVID-19 and encourage vaccines.

Efforts include conversations with the public about their knowledge and concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccine and provide information on how to access vaccines, testing and other COVID-19 resources.

The Health Equity Street Outreach Team and Immunizations Education Team conducts weekly outreach:

- local businesses
- churches
- schools

Outreach utilizes Community Health Workers/Promoters, Certified Health Education Specialist, and Public Health Educators.

## Examples of COVID-19 Vaccination Education at Worksites This Month:

- Four Hands LLC.
- Capital Metro
- Dover Fueling Solutions
- Fiesta Mart



Picture: 9/1 Fiesta Mart outreach event



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

Austin Public Health @AusPublicHealth · Sep 19  
#COVID19 تعدادمان مان قدرتمان ميباشد. قهرمان باشيد + براي دريافت واکسن با جامعه خود تماس بگيريد. هر تزريق گامي به سوی آینده ميباشد.

[austintexas.gov/COVID19](https://austintexas.gov/COVID19)



Austin Public Health @AusPublicHealth · Sep 19  
En la unión está la fuerza. Las vacunas contra el #COVID19 son seguras, eficaces y la mejor manera de seguir adelante.

Vacúnese [austintexas.gov/COVID19](https://austintexas.gov/COVID19)



Austin Public Health @AusPublicHealth · Sep 15  
Si se vacuna contra el #COVID19 cuando está embarazada, esta protección se extiende a su bebé. La vacuna es segura y eficaz. Empiece su viaje de maternidad con la mejor protección

Si está embarazada y tiene preguntas:  
Lláme al: 1-866-626-6847  
[mothertobaby.org/ask-an-expert](https://mothertobaby.org/ask-an-expert)



**VAXX FACTS**

The vaccine **DOES NOT** make you **MAGNETIC**

None of the ingredients in the vaccine will give you superpowers

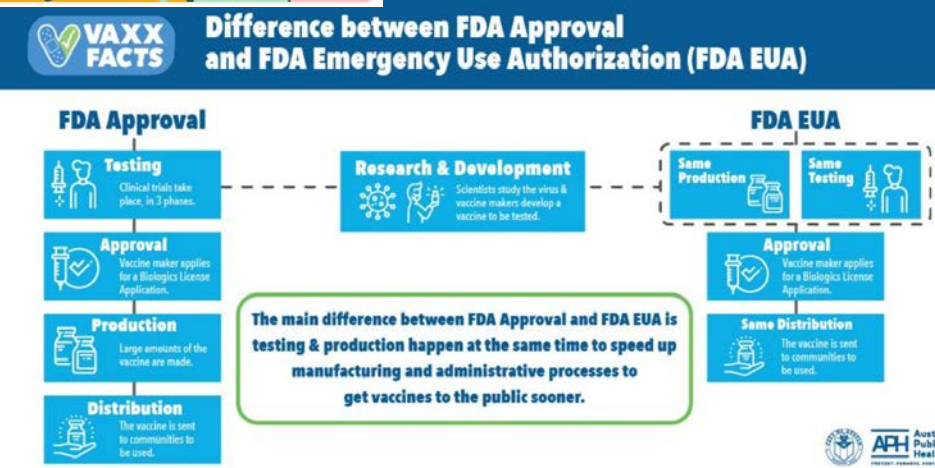
Austin Public Health  
PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

**VAXX FACTS**

Getting vaccinated while pregnant is **SAFE!**

Getting the vaccine while you're pregnant protects your baby after you give birth.

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Thank you