

# COVID-19 Update

September 28, 2021

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



# STAGE 4:

**Delta Edition**

## COVID-19 Risk-Based Chart — Vaccinated

\* Please continue following additional requirements of local businesses, venues and schools regardless of vaccination status or stage. Schools, hospitals, and long term living centers follow CDC and APH guidelines—or—the regulatory agency's policy.

	Private Gatherings* With People Outside Your Household				Travel*		Dining*		Shopping*	
	Indoor		Outdoor		Low-Risk	High-Risk	Low-Risk	High-Risk	Low-Risk	High-Risk
	Low-Risk	High-Risk	Low-Risk	High-Risk						
Stage 1										
Stage 2										
Stage 3										
Stage 4										
Stage 5						Only if essential				Outdoors/ Takeaway/ Curbside





















Mask optional, continue washing hands and other hygiene precautions  
 Not recommended at all, with or without masks  
 Take prevention measures: wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance following CDC guidelines  
 Places that require vaccines and masks may pose a lower risk.

**Delta Edition**

Delta  
Edition

# COVID-19 Risk-Based Chart — Partly Vaccinated or Unvaccinated

\* Please continue following additional requirements of local businesses, venues and schools regardless of vaccination status or stage. Schools, hospitals, and long term living centers follow CDC and APH guidelines—or—the regulatory agency's policy.

	Private Gatherings* With People Outside Your Household		Travel*	Dining*	Shopping*
	Indoor	Outdoor			
Stage 1					
Stage 2					
Stage 3	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential	 If high risk: avoid unless essential
Stage 4			Only if essential	Takeaway/ Curbside	Only if essential
Stage 5				Takeaway/ Curbside	Takeaway/ Curbside

Mask optional, continue washing hands and other hygiene precautions

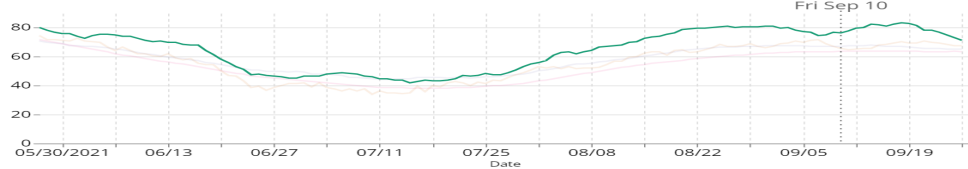
Not recommended at all, with or without masks

Take prevention measures:  
wear a mask, wash your hands and  
social distance following CDC guidelines

Delta  
Edition

## PEOPLE WEARING MASKS CHART

People Wearing Masks in Travis County, TX  
per 100 people



Rescale Y-axis Show All Dates

Travis County, TX  
76.35% per 100

Texas  
67.36% per 100

Neighboring Counties  
65.84% per 100

United States  
63.76% per 100

### ABOUT PEOPLE WEARING MASKS

Every day, Delphi surveys tens of thousands of Facebook users, asking them a broad set of COVID-related questions, including whether they, or anyone in their household, are currently experiencing COVID-related symptoms. We also ask them if they wear a mask when they are in public. For this signal, we estimate the percentage of people who say they wear a mask most or all of the time when they are in public. The signal changed in [Wave 10](#) of the survey, unifying the timespan to 7 days from previously 5 days.

Source: Delphi CTIS

More information

- Technical description
- Interpreting mask use in context
- Wave 10 revision updates
- Export Data

### NEIGHBORING COUNTIES

COUNTY	CHANGE LAST 7 DAYS	PER 100	HISTORICAL TREND
			8/27 9/24
United States	→ +1.09%	63.76% /100	
Texas	→ -0.72%	67.36% /100	
Bastrop County, TX	▲ N/A	N/A	N/A
Blanco County, TX	▲ N/A	N/A	N/A

### Explore an INDICATOR

Region

Travis County, TX

Indicator

People Wearing Masks

Hays County, TX	↓ -5.82%	64.37% /100	
Travis County, TX	↓ -5.00%	76.35% /100	
Williamson County, TX	→ -4.31%	67.32% /100	

## MSA Daily Counts

Report Refreshed: 9/27/2021 12:30:08

Data Up To: 09/27/2021

Select Reporting Date

5/28/2020

9/27/2021

Select Facility Name

Search

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

09/27/2021

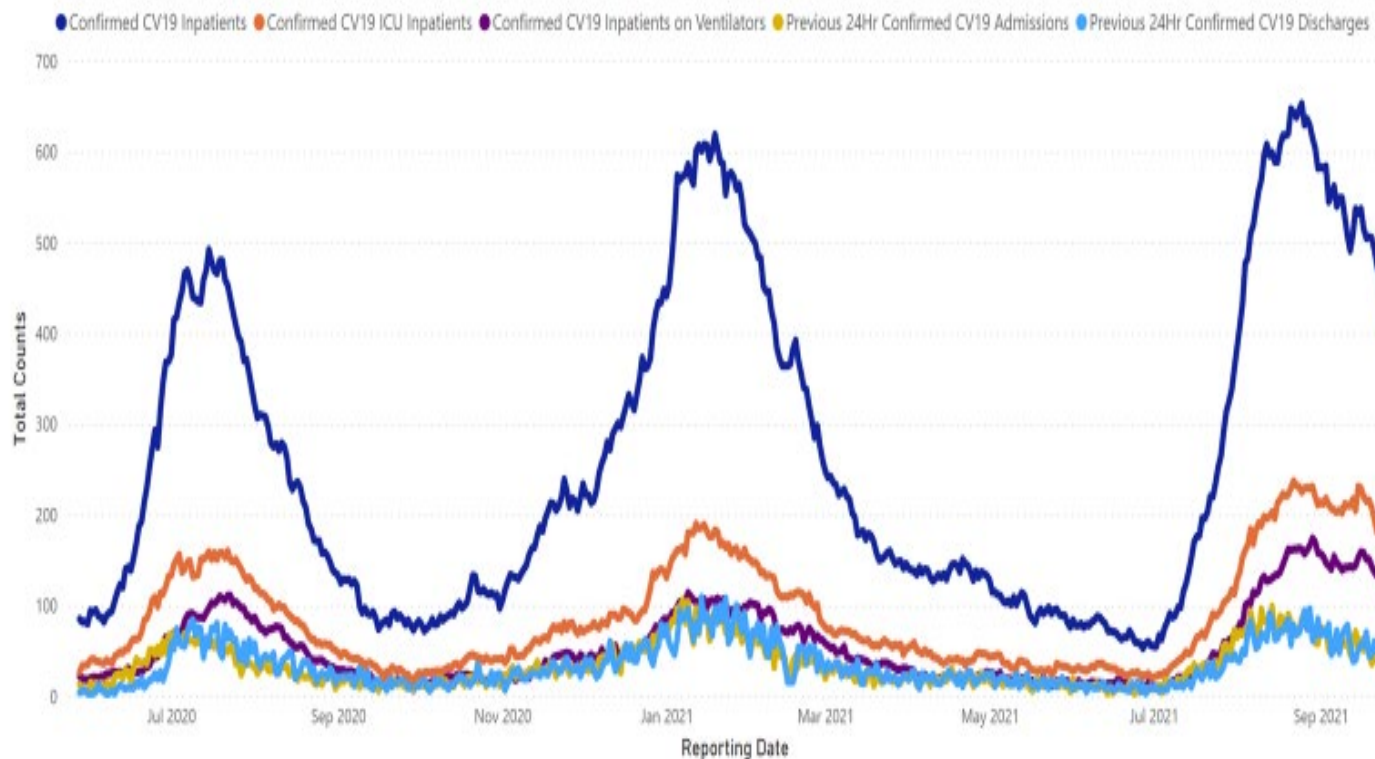
390  
CV19 Inpatients

162  
CV19 ICU Inpatients

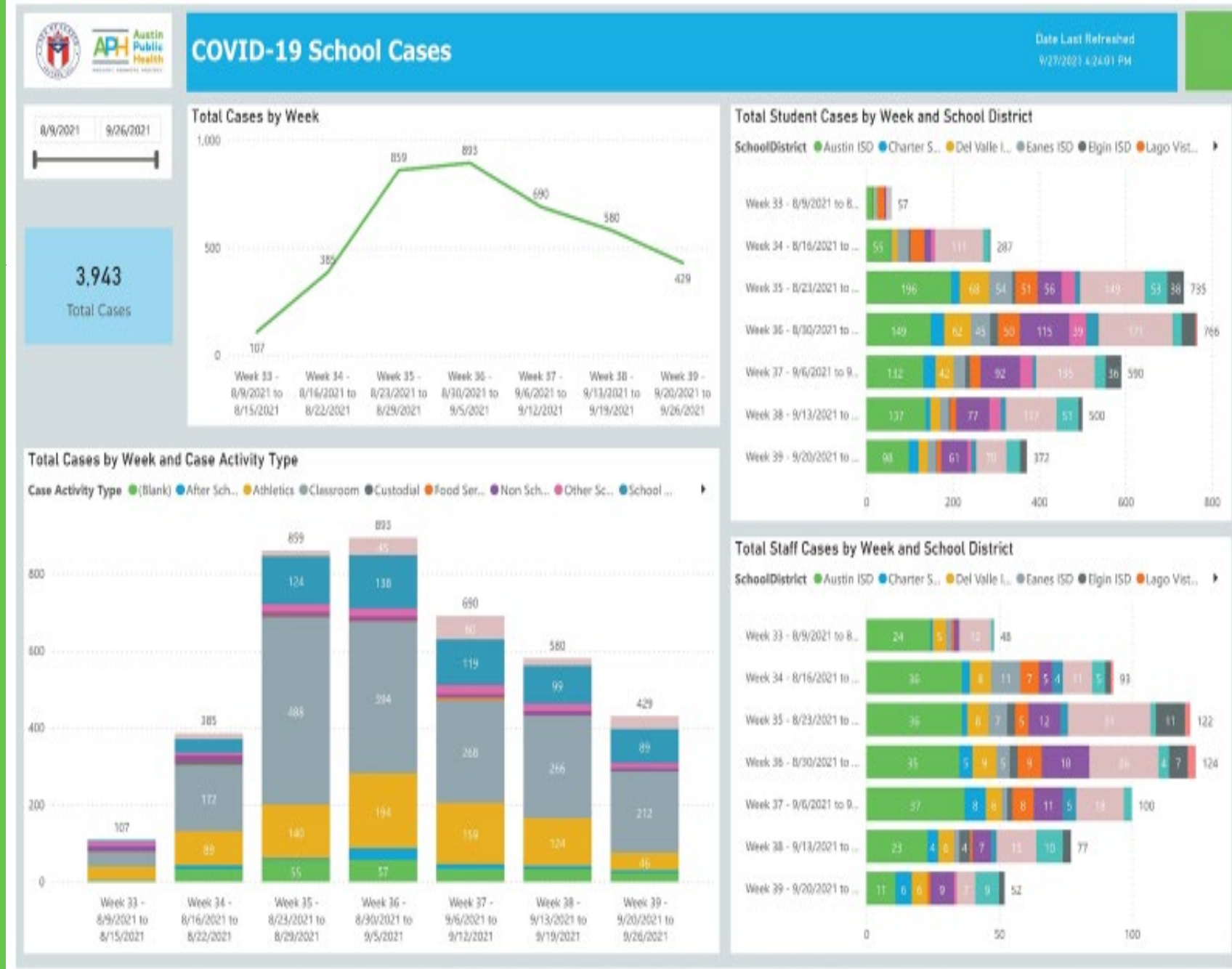
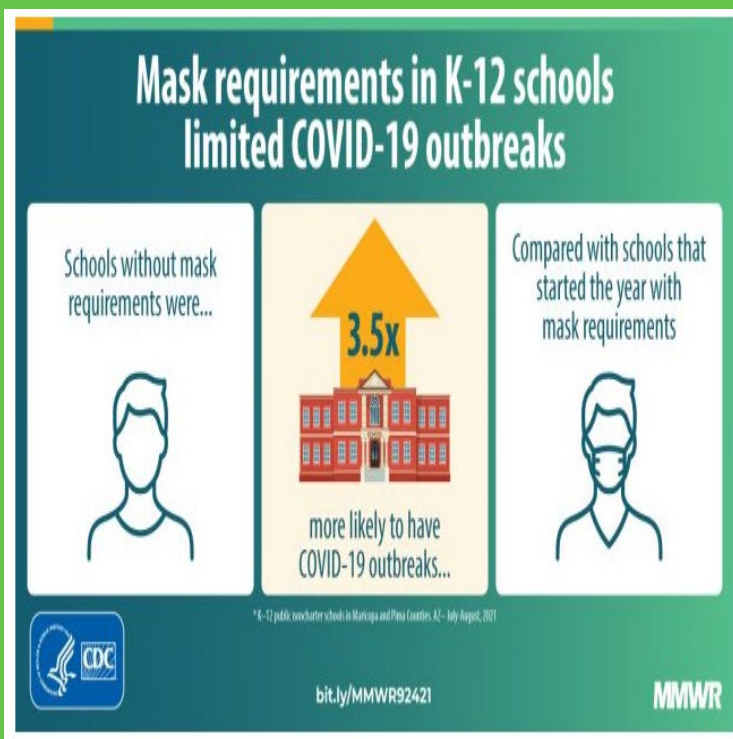
108  
CV19 Inpatients on Vent

25  
Previous 24Hr Admissions

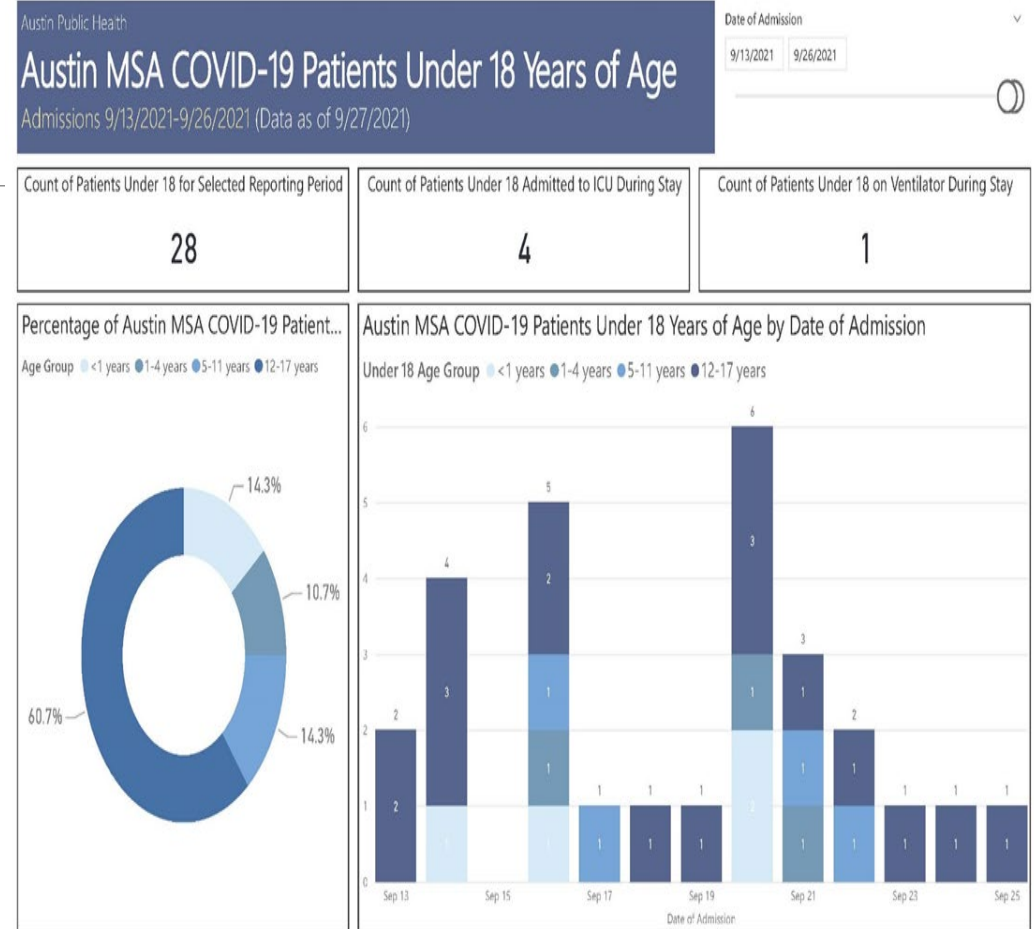
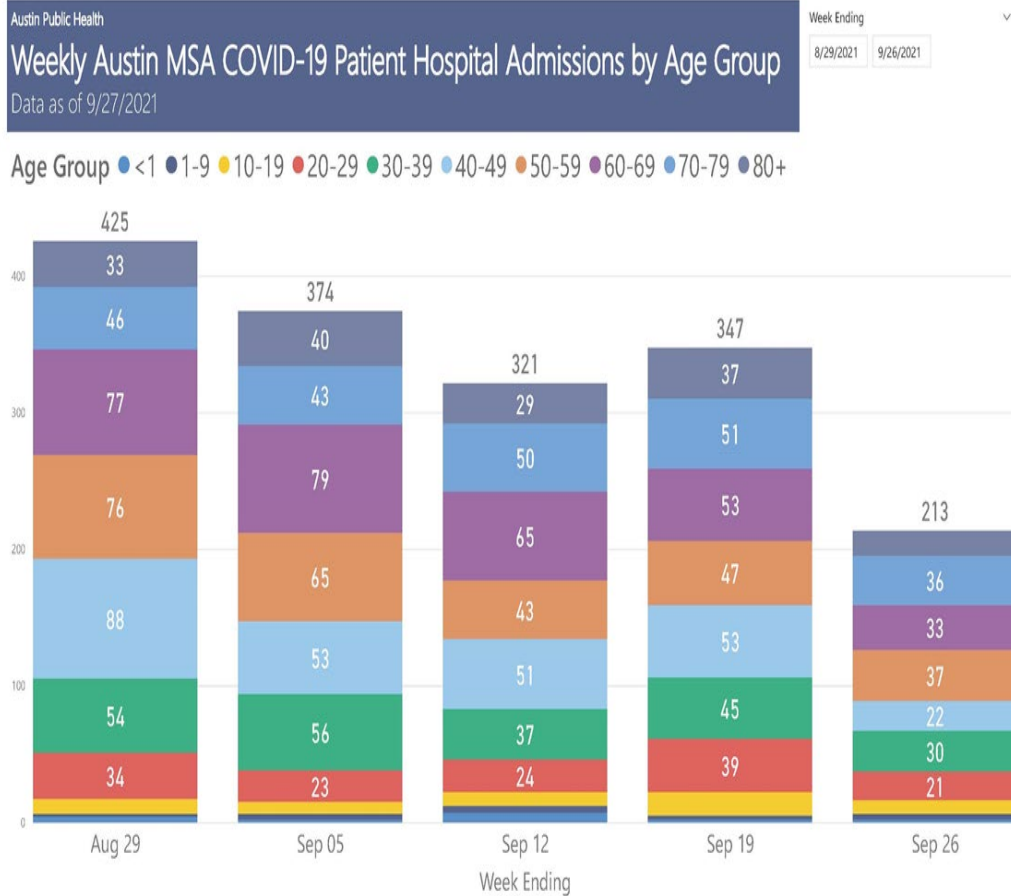
42  
Previous 24Hr Discharges



Masks in Schools  
=  
Fewer COVID-19  
Cases

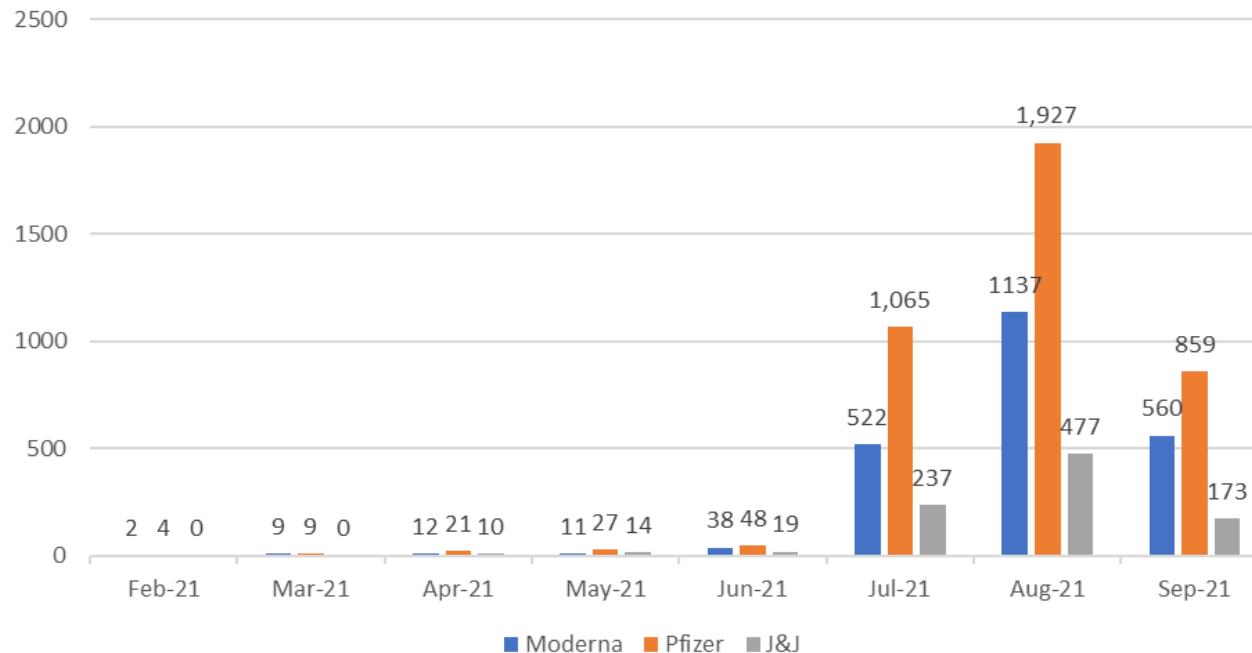






# 1% Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

Confirmed COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases by manufacturer reported to Austin Public Health, Jan.-Sept. 24, 2021 (n=7,181)



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



[bit.ly/MMWR91021](https://bit.ly/MMWR91021)

\* June 20-July 17, 2021  
<sup>†</sup> Compared with people not fully vaccinated

MMWR

# Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Report

APH Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness



Total Cases

3867

Total Deaths

332

New Cases Last 14 Days

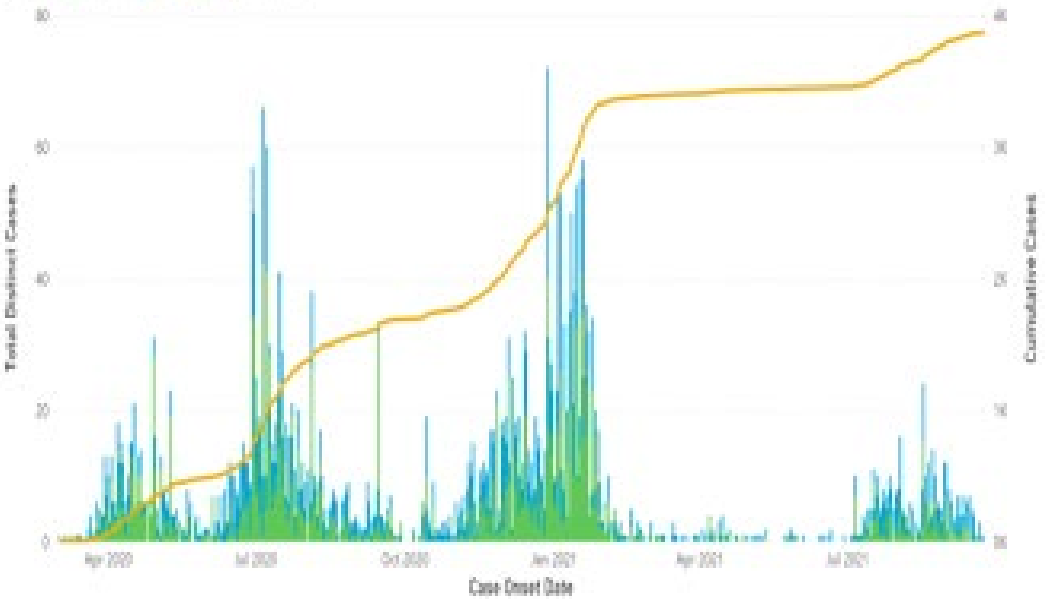
39

New Cases Last 28 Days

112

Total Distinct Cases and Cumulative Cases by Case Onset Date and LTCF Role

LTCF Role: Resident (Green), Staff (Blue), Cumulative Cases (Yellow)



Date Last Refreshed  
9/24/2021 12:11:32 AM

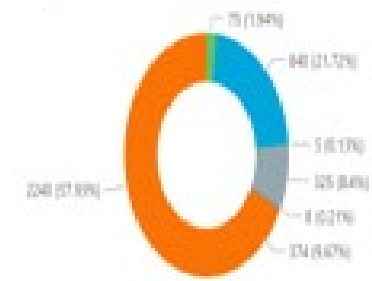
# Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Report

APH Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness



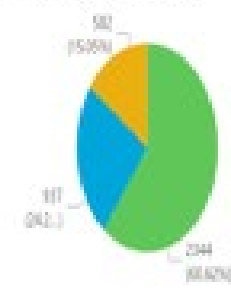
LTCF Role  
Select all  
Resident  
Staff

Total Cases by Race



Race  
Asian  
Black  
Native American/Alaskan  
Other  
Pacific Islander  
Unknown  
White

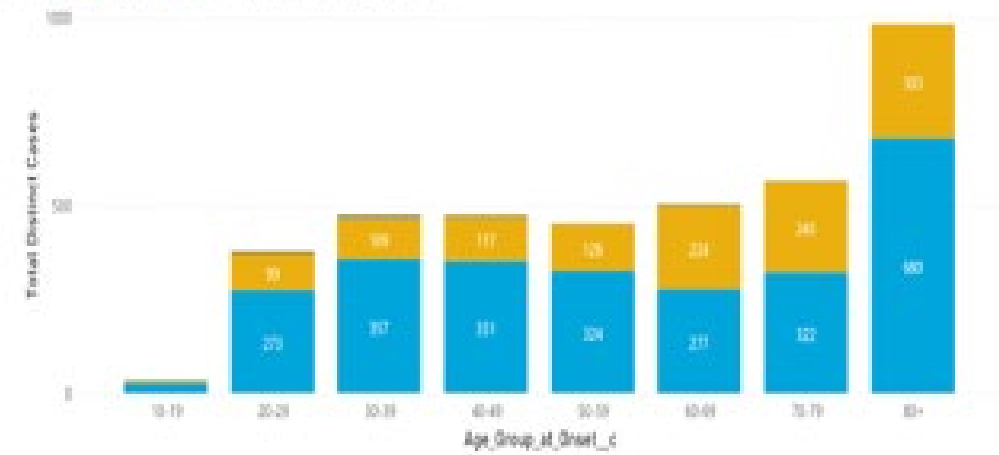
Total Cases by Ethnicity



Ethnicity  
Non-Hispanic  
Hispanic  
Unknown  
No (not of U.S.)  
Yes (for exam...)

Total Cases by Age Group and Gender

Gender: (Blank) (Green), Female (Blue), Male (Yellow), Prefer not to Answer (Grey), Unknown (Black)



Date Last Refreshed  
9/24/2021 12:11:32 AM

# Fatality Statistics

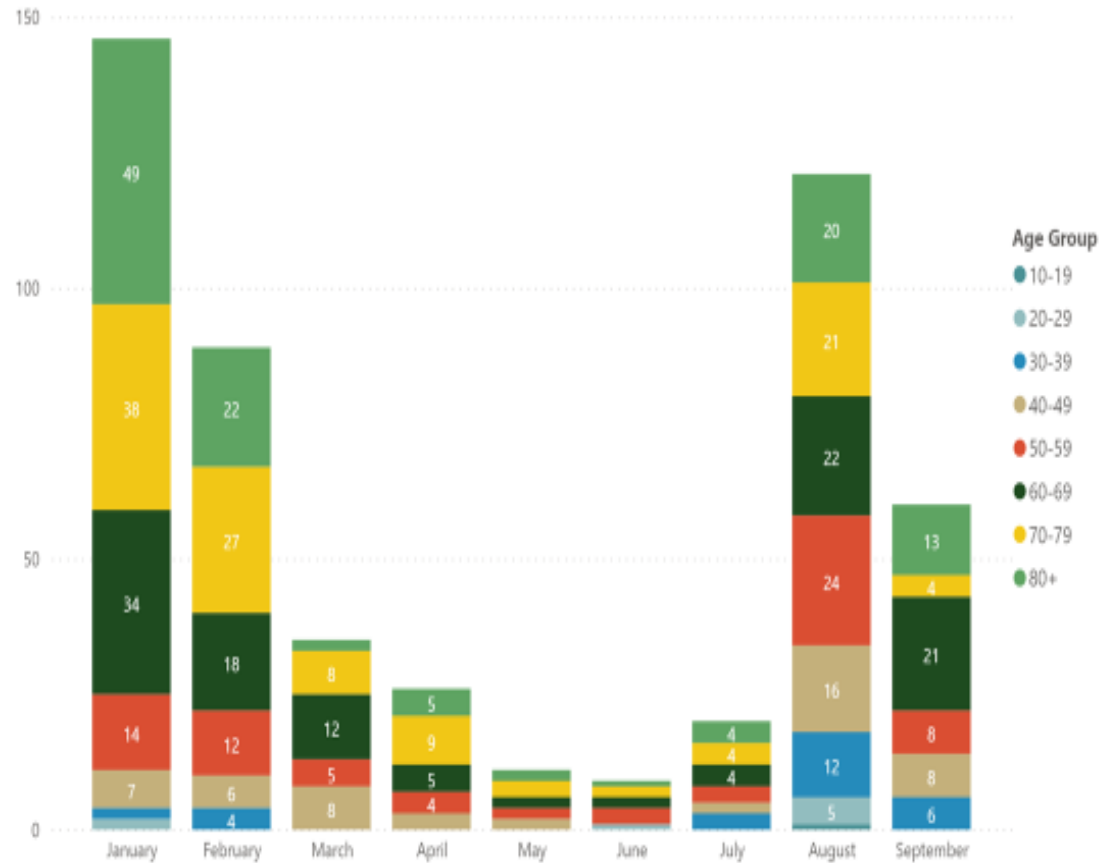
Total Deaths	1089 (as of 9.27.21)
Deaths since Jan 2021	517
(investigated as of 9/21/21)	
Fully Vaccinated	8.1%
Race/Ethnicity Impact	11.8% Black
	51.5% Hispanic
Sex Impacted	59.4% Male

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

## COVID-Related Deaths (2021) - Travis County

COVID Deaths	Breakthrough Deaths	Breakthrough Death Rate	Youngest Age	Oldest Age	Median Age
517	42	8.12%	17	103	68

Age Group by Month of Death



Race	# of Cases	Percentage
Asian	10	1.93%
Black or African American	61	11.80%
Other	107	20.70%
Pacific Islander	1	0.19%
Unknown	4	0.77%
White	334	64.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Ethnicity	# Cases	Percentage
Hispanic	266	51.45%
Non Hispanic	241	46.62%
Unknown	10	1.93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Sex





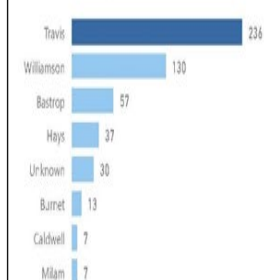
## Austin MSA COVID-19 Travis County Resident Admissions

Admissions 9/13/2021-9/26/2021 (Data as of 9/27/2021)

Date of Admission

9/13/2021 9/26/2021

## Counties with Highest Count of Admissions

Counties with Highest Percentage of Admissions  
N= 560

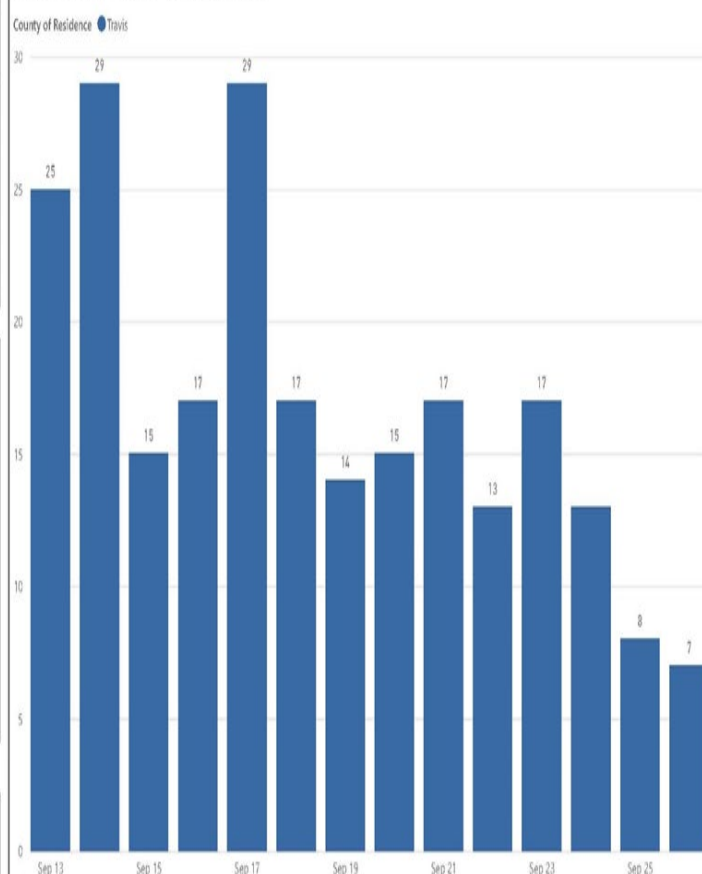
County of Residence	Count	Percentage
Travis	236	42.14%
Williamson	130	23.21%
Bastrop	57	10.18%
Hays	37	6.61%
Unknown	30	5.36%
Burnet	13	2.32%
Caldwell	7	1.25%

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

Total Admissions for Selected Reporting Dates

560

## Travis County COVID-19 Admissions



## Austin MSA COVID-19 Travis County Resident Admissions

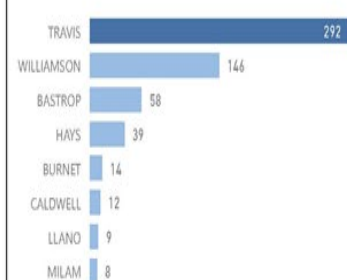
Admissions 9/6/2021-9/19/2021 (Data as of 9/20/2021)

Date of Admission

9/6/2021

9/19/2021

## Counties with Highest Count of Admissions

Counties with Highest Percentage of Admissions  
N= 622

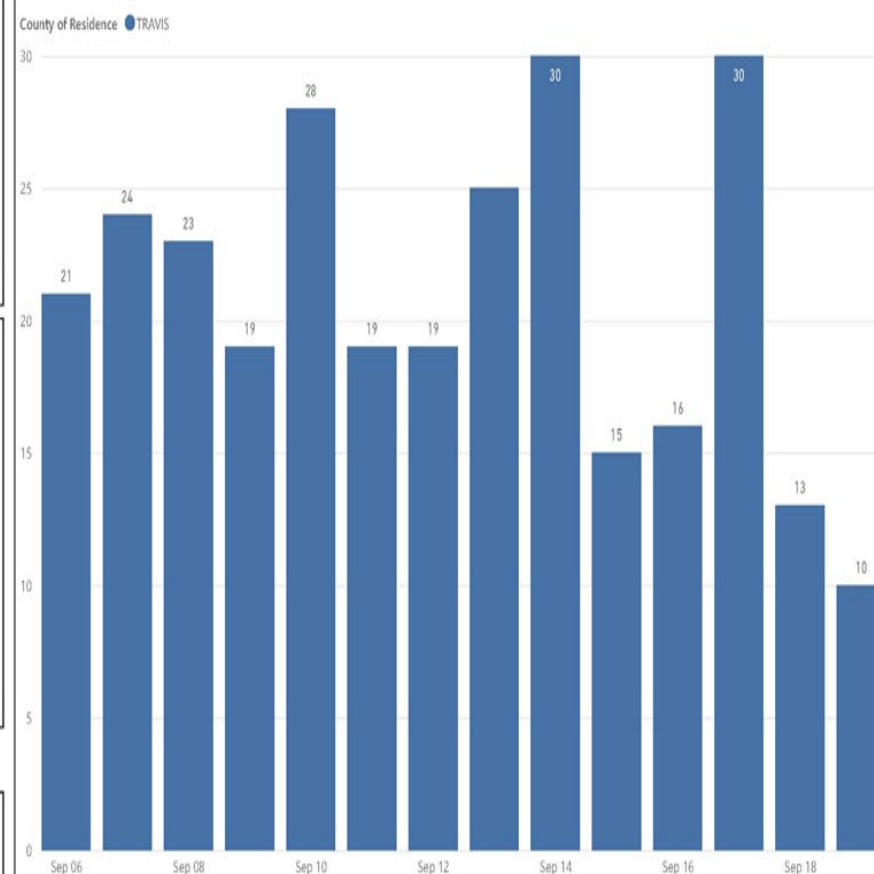
County of Residence	Percentage	Count
TRAVIS	47.10%	292
WILLIAMSON	23.55%	146
BASTROP	9.35%	58
HAYS	6.29%	39
BURNET	2.26%	14
CALDWELL	1.94%	12
LLANO	1.45%	9

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

Total Admissions for Selected Reporting Dates

652

## Travis County COVID-19 Admissions



# Call to Action to Protect our Hospitals

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- Get vaccinated if you are not protected
- Encourage a friend to get vaccinated
- Boosters are available 6 months after the primary series of Pfizer for:
  - Over 65 years and in LTCF
  - People 18 years or older with chronic medical conditions
  - People who are at risk for exposure due to their occupational or institutional setting
- Support businesses that are helping us reach our goals
- Wear masks indoors and in places where you cannot safely socially 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 28, 2021

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 (9/20-9/25):**

**1,488**





# Vaccine Operations State, Regional and Local

Texas: 71% first dose, 61% fully vaccinated

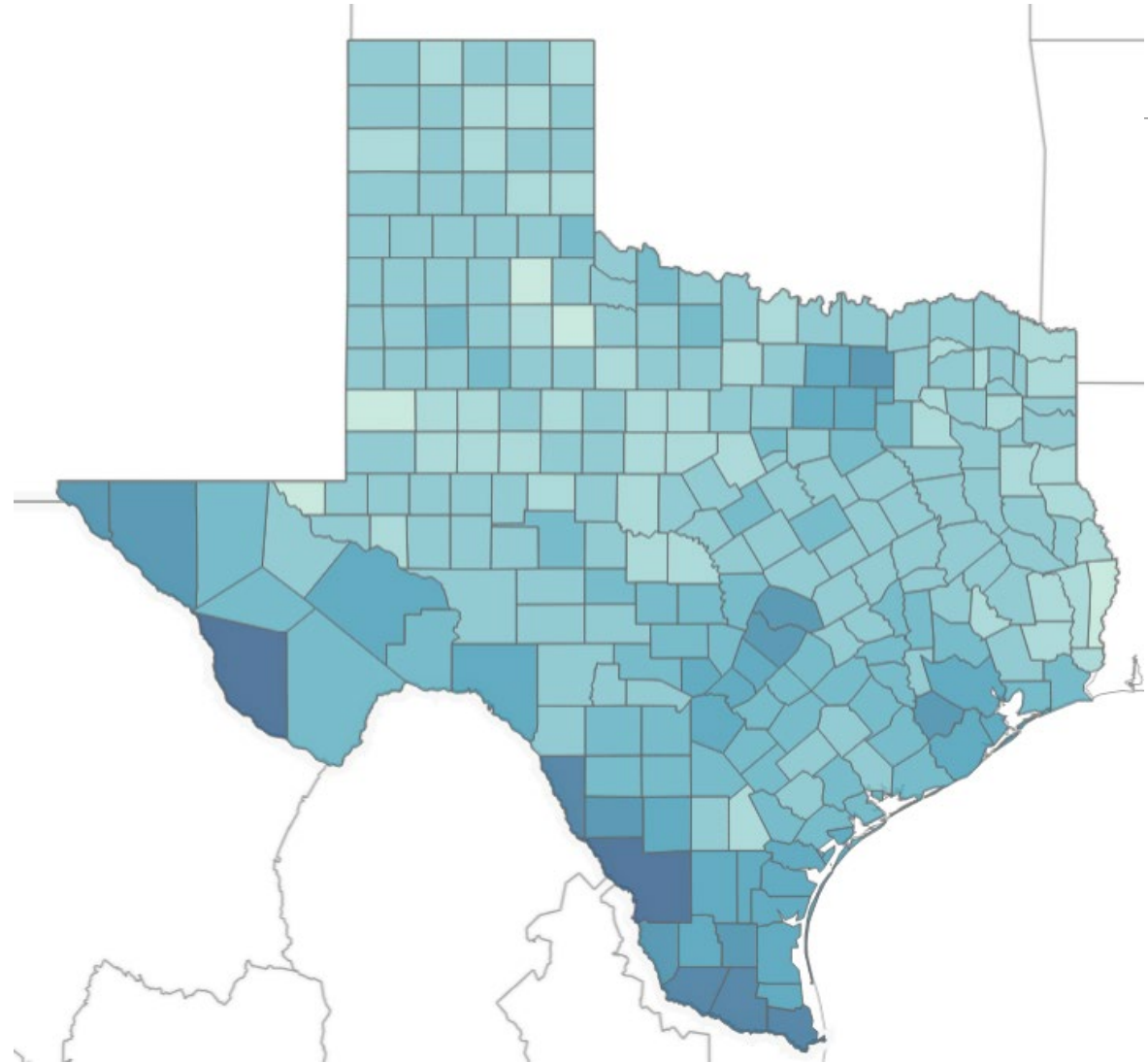
Travis County: 81% first dose, 71% fully vaccinated

## Major Metros

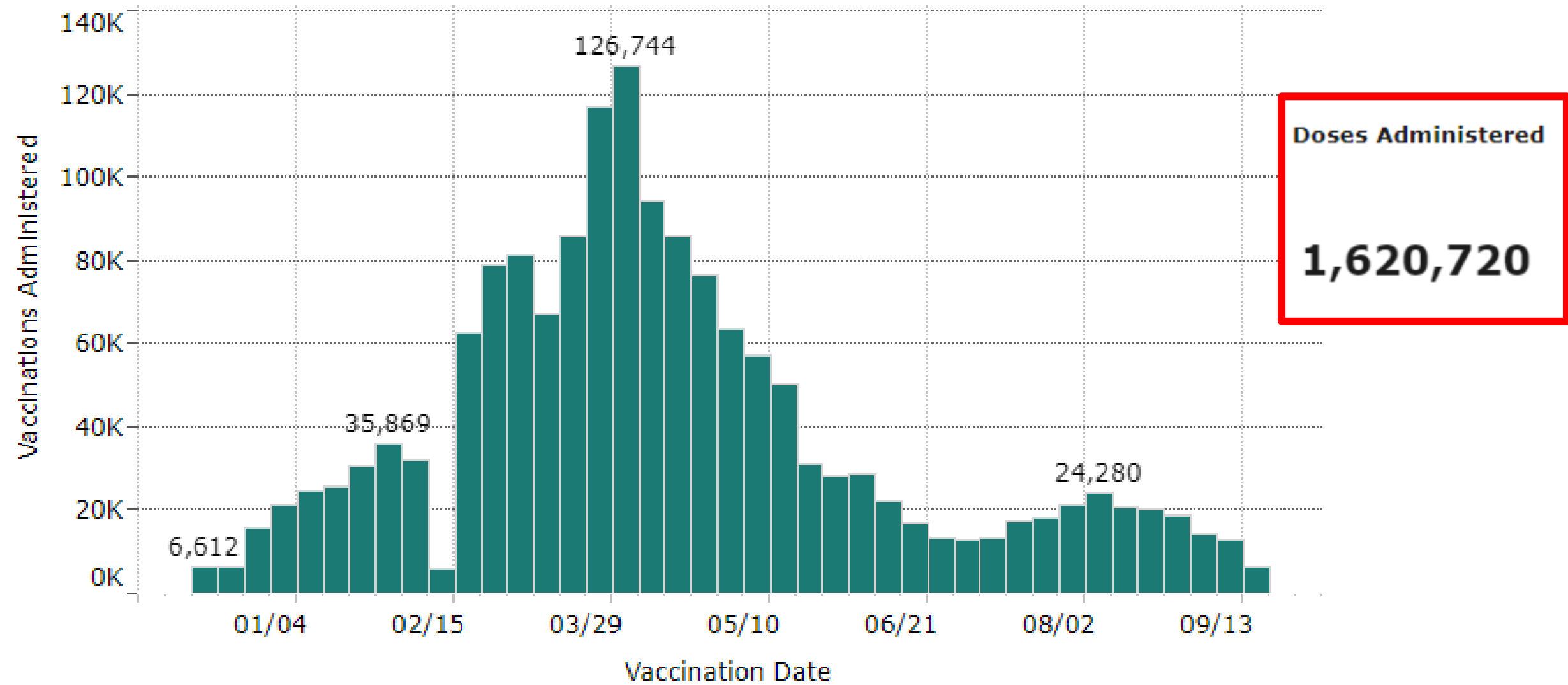
- Tarrant: 66% first dose, 58% fully vaccinated
- Dallas: 71% first dose, 60% fully vaccinated
- Bexar: 77% first dose, 66% fully vaccinated
- Harris: 76% first dose, 64% fully vaccinated
- El Paso: 88% first dose, 76% fully vaccinated

## MSA and Travis County Bordering Counties

- Bastrop: 70% first dose, 57% fully vaccinated
- Blanco: 60% first dose, 53% fully vaccinated
- Burnet: 60% first dose, 52% fully vaccinated
- Caldwell: 64% first dose, 54% fully vaccinated
- Hays: 73% first dose, 62% fully vaccinated
- Williamson: 78% first dose, 69% fully vaccinated



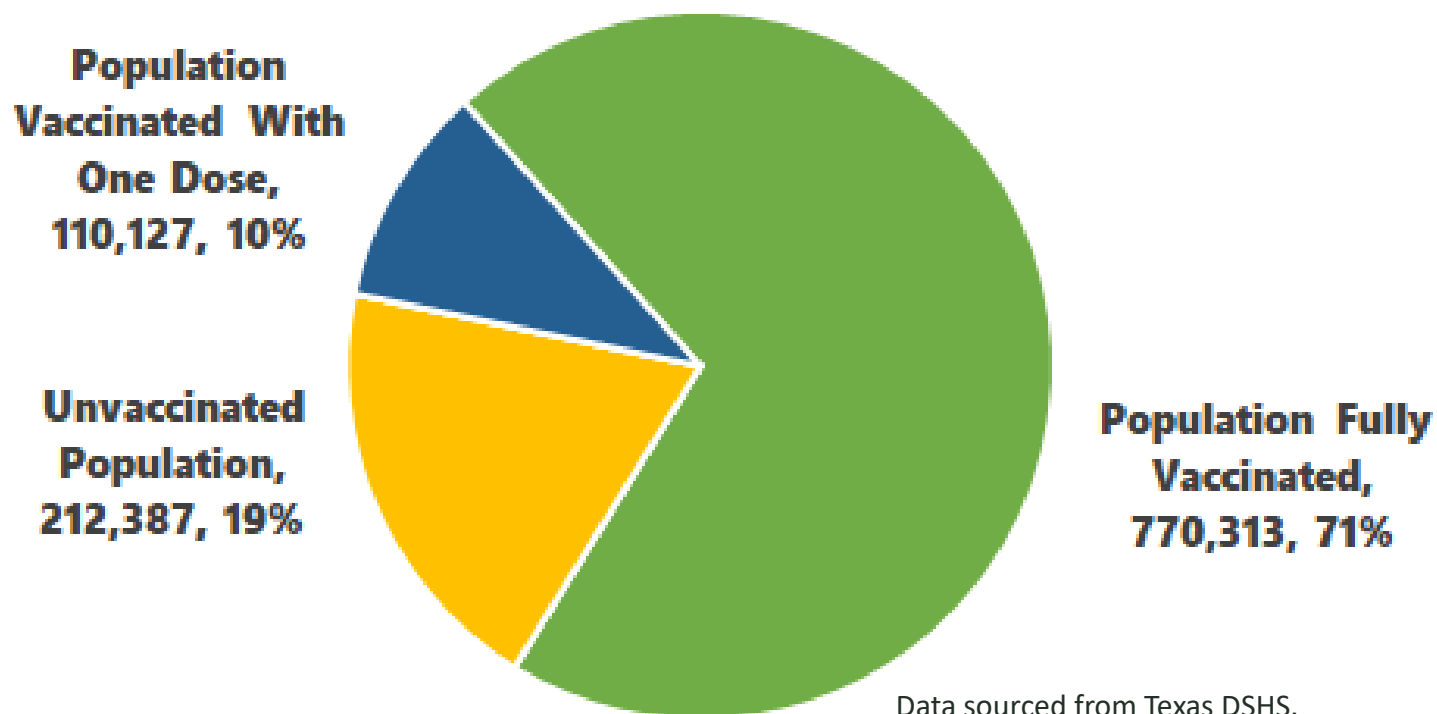
# Vaccinations by Week in Travis County



# Travis County Residents Who Have Not Received Second Dose

## Vaccinated Proportion of Eligible Population

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



Data sourced from Texas DSHS.  
Current as of 09/24/2021.

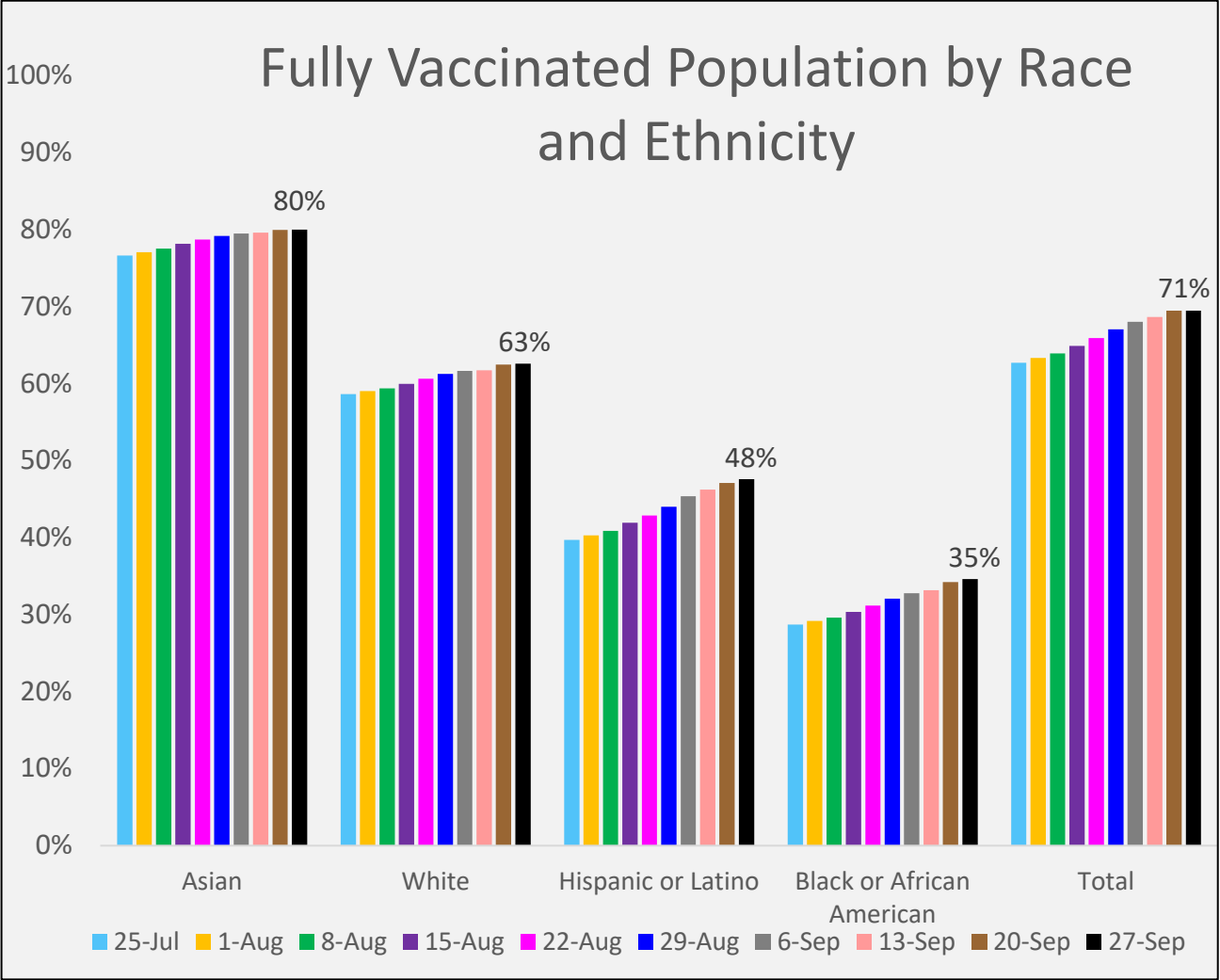
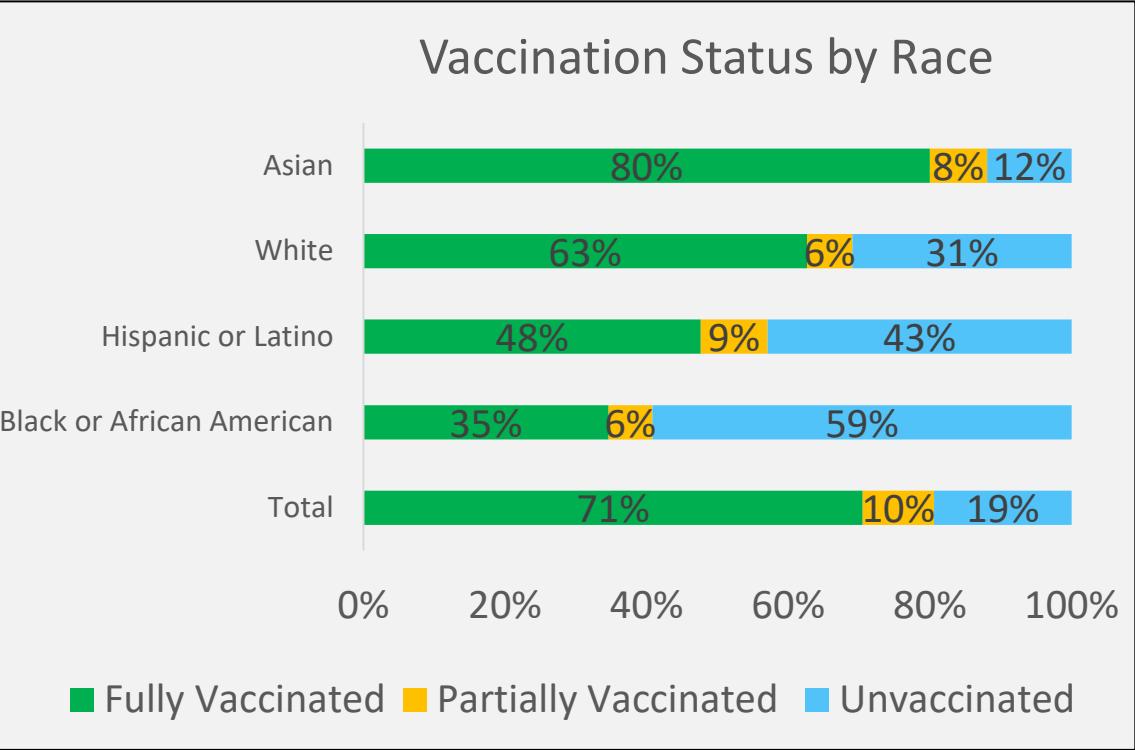
# Travis County Vaccine Distribution by Provider



## Doses Administered by Organization Type

Emergency Services	50,367
Health Center (Community, Federally Qualified, Migrant, Rural)	57,484
Hospital	268,315
Long-Term Care	241
Medical Clinic/Doctor's Office	159,701
Public Health/Government	307,303
Pharmacy	729,075
Other	48,234

# TXDSHS Vaccine Data for Travis County by Race and Ethnicity



Data sourced from Texas DSHS. Current as of 09/24/2021.



# 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

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

### **Pflugerville Library (Moderna & Pfizer)**

1008 W Pfluger St  
Wednesday: 2PM-7PM

### **Delco Activity Center (Moderna & Pfizer)**

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

### **IDEA Bluff Springs (Moderna & Pfizer)**

1700 Slaughter  
Thursday: 6PM-8PM

### **Mobile Operations**

21 Events This Week Including:

- 3 ACC Campuses
- Front Steps
- Travis County Adult Probation
- Home Visits

# Booster Emergency Use Authorization Status

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Recommendations

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
- 18-64 At high risk of severe COVID-19
- 18-64 At high risk of occupational exposure:
  - ✓ First responders (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff)
  - ✓ Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers)
  - ✓ Food and agriculture workers
  - ✓ Manufacturing workers
  - ✓ Corrections workers
  - ✓ U.S. Postal Service workers
  - ✓ Public transit workers
  - ✓ Grocery store workers

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have **NOT** been authorized for boosters.

### Evidence Based Recommendations Process



# Council Resolution No. 20210826-110

## Brief Overview

Directed City Manager to build on the Capital Area COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan by developing a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccine booster shot strategy that includes but is not limited to:

- Analyzes lessons learned from the ongoing initial COVID-19 vaccination rollout and process, with a focus on combatting vaccine hesitancy or access issues affecting communities most impacted by COVID-19;
- Plans to build on communication and partnership with community, government partners, and other vaccine providers during the booster shot process;
- Plans to execute a booster shot strategy while continuing to address ongoing vaccine access issues and prioritizing populations experiencing disparate outcomes related to COVID-19;
- Communication strategy and plans to educate the public with accurate information on the booster shot process and where residents can get the vaccine from among nearly 350 vaccine providers in the region; and
- Plans to utilize Community Health Workers from Austin Public Health and community partners to address booster shot outreach efforts.

# Capital Area COVID-19 Updated Vaccination Strategy

## Plan Purpose

- To provide an externally facing document that outlines the vaccination strategy for COVID-19
- To present how APH plans to meet community vaccination needs
- To be transparent about the resources, processes, and partnerships available to support a comprehensive community vaccination strategy
- To highlight decision-making entities for vaccine allocation and distribution

## Plan Organization

- Supports the structure developed by the CDC and used by state and local health departments nationwide
- Describes outreach, engagement, and communication strategies
- Considers lessons learned
- Provides strategy for 3<sup>rd</sup> doses and boosters
- Includes vaccine distribution strategy for those under age 11.

- Multiple community engagement events are being planned in October to inform plans and operations
- Ongoing discussions continue with partners, vaccine coalition, and County Collaborative to implement
- Companion document will be shared with the community for review and comment

# Initial Lessons Learned From Vaccine Operations

## Health communications focused on communities at risk

### Health Communications



### Health Equity



### Information Technology



- APH keeps the community informed on the latest science, rules and regulations, testing and vaccine services.
- The ability to provide ongoing outreach with updated and revised information across the many response domains, including testing and vaccination, proved challenging.
- Social media/traditional media that resonates with all audiences needed to reach Travis County residents.
- Focused linguistically and culturally appropriate messaging to those disproportionately impacted seeks
- to educate and inform people about the disease, risk factors, prevention, and opportunities for vaccination.



# Initial Lessons Learned From Vaccine Operations

**Health equity is an integral part of public health emergency operations**

## Health Communications



## Health Equity



## Information Technology



- The pandemic exacerbated historically embedded health-related disproportionality in our community.
- Health Equity is an integral component of APH operations; we seek to reach people where they are.
- A renewed health equity focus will concentrate on the needs of those who are economically marginalized, areas with high case positivity, and areas of low vaccination uptake.
- This renewed focus will be inclusive of all races, ethnicities, and languages.
- This renewed focus will also provide outreach through trusted sources at the neighborhood level.

# Initial Lessons Learned From Vaccine Operations

**The IT infrastructure must reflect the reality of both daily and pandemic operations**

## Health Communications



## Health Equity



## Information Technology



- The IT infrastructure was built to handle daily operations, not pandemic operations.
- As the pandemic quickly unfolded, it was difficult for the IT infrastructure to meet ever increasing demands.
- The ongoing pandemic prioritized the need to move quickly with improvements and vendor implementation.
- APH will systematically review and address the IT infrastructure to create a fit for purpose system that meets both daily programmatic needs as well as disaster-related response requirements.

# Resolution 110 Unmet Needs

**Recommendations aim to address unmet needs to support ongoing operations**

- Incentives to engage hard-to-reach populations and encourage vaccine uptake
- Staff to manage and execute the incentive program
- Neighborhood level outreach and education
- Additional clinical strike teams and increased staffing for expanded clinics
- Security for existing and new operations to ensure the protection of patients and staff
- Traffic control support at existing and new operations to ensure adequate traffic control engineering
- Ongoing EOC logistical and financial support

# 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.

## Upcoming Events:

- Foundation Communities
- St. James
- Beauty/Barber's Convention





# Del Valle Opportunity Center


## *September 25, 2021*

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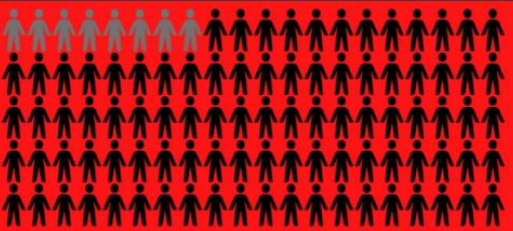


Since January, unvaccinated individuals make up an average of 92% of Covid-19 deaths in Austin-Travis County



**Get Vaccinated.**

Desde enero, los individuos no vacunados hacen un promedio de 92% de las muertes debido a COVID-19 en Austin y el Condado de Travis



**Vacúnese.**

**Proteja a su familia.  
Vacúnese.**



**APH** Austin Public Health  
PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

As the #Flu season begins, APH wants everyone to get vaccinated for both Flu + #COVID19 to avoid further straining our healthcare systems. The vaccines can be administered at the same time.

Full release: [bit.ly/2W4L3DQ](https://bit.ly/2W4L3DQ)

#COVID19 vaccine 🙌 [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)... See More

**MASK UP, LATHER UP, SLEEVE UP**



**#FIGHT FLU**



<p>همديگر وابسته است سلامتتي ما به</p> 	<p>VACUNAS PARA MIS PACIENTES</p> 
<p>tin tưởng vắc xin</p> 	<p>VACCINES ARE SAFE</p> 
<p>VACCINES FOR ALL</p> 	<p>胜利疫苗</p> 



# PPE & Food Distribution

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Thank you