COVID-19 Update

January 8, 2021

John W. Hellerstedt, MD, Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services
DSHS Texas COVID-19 Timeline

- **January 23, 2020**: DSHS launched the [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/](http://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/) website and prepared #TexasDSHS social media campaigns
- **January 31, 2020**: DSHS activated the State Medical Operations Center (SMOC)
- **March 4, 2020**: DSHS announced the first positive test result for COVID-19
- **March 17, 2020**: DSHS announced the first death of a person with lab-confirmed COVID-19
- **March 19, 2020**: DSHS Commissioner Hellerstedt declared a Public Health Disaster
- **October 2020**: DSHS assembled the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP)
- **December 14, 2020**: DSHS distributed the first COVID-19 vaccine doses
- **January 6, 2021**: 1,646,382 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in all 254 Texas counties with 28,545 fatalities
DSHS Roles during the Pandemic

- Coordination of local and state public health efforts
- Statewide management and provision of lab testing and capacity
- Data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Health care system support and deployment of medical staffing to hospitals and nursing facilities
- Statewide public awareness
- Public health guidance for individuals and businesses, and consultation with local elected leaders
- Sourcing and allocating therapeutics and medications, medical supplies, and personal protective equipment
- Utilizing the established infrastructure to safely and appropriately disseminate vaccine
DSHS Outputs as of Late December 2020

- Health system support: 2,478 State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs) filled
  - 11,041 Staff currently in the field
  - 1,076 Alternate care beds secured
  - 117 Isolation & Quarantine Sites
- Call Center: 32,879 calls and 29,253 emails received
- Contact Tracing
  - 2,790 State and local contact tracers active in Texas Health Trace
  - 47 Local and 8 regional health entities voluntarily participating in Texas Health Trace
  - 28 Local Health Authorities (14 performing contact tracing)
## Estimated COVID-19 Pandemic Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount Obligated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Staffing</td>
<td>$2.2 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Response</td>
<td>$127.4 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease Surveillance</td>
<td>$95.2 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Contracts</td>
<td>$68.3 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Costs</td>
<td>$30.5 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repatriation</td>
<td>$5.5 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Costs</td>
<td>$0.5 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2.5 Billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DSHS Coronavirus Website Updates

- DSHS coronavirus website
  www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus
  - Information in English and Spanish
  - Interactive dashboards
  - Contact Tracing—Answer the Call Texans!
  - Therapeutics information
  - Testing information
  - Vaccine Information
On Dec. 11, DSHS added probable case counts and reconfigured the dashboard to improve performance.
On Dec. 11, DSHS added the antigen positivity rate and retired the lab test reported date and case reported date positivity rates.
Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage

• COVID-19 Vaccine Information website launched December 2020: www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine
  • Texas Vaccination Plan
  • Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel
  • Vaccine Provider Locations
  • Provider Enrollment
Information about vaccine distribution and administered doses in Texas

Vaccine Dashboard
Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Location Map

Information about vaccine providers in Texas
COVID-19 Vaccine Market Research

- Ongoing surveys with diverse Texans have driven campaign strategies and messaging
- September 2020 data:
  - 53% plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine once available, 19% will not, 28% unsure
  - Men (64%) are more likely than women (45%) to get the COVID-19 vaccine
  - Age 35–64 (56%) and age 65+ (61%) are more likely than age 18–34 (43%) to get the COVID-19 vaccine
  - Half of participants were very concerned the vaccine will not be tested enough and that there may be risks to receiving it, especially for those with pre-existing conditions
COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign

• Bilingual, statewide COVID-19 vaccine campaign began in December 2020 with a focus on:
  • COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness
  • Who, how, and when to get the vaccine
  • Addressing vaccine hesitancy, especially among at-risk populations
  • Encouraging mask use/distancing even as vaccination continues
  • Fighting misinformation

• Ongoing 2021 campaign will include TV, radio, digital, outdoor and community-based outreach

• Vaccine communications toolkit on Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Tools has fact sheets, videos, PSAs, social media posts for partners to use and share
# HealthyTexas COVID-19 Communication Tools

- Animations, videos, printable PDFs, social media shareable graphics.
- Minimum Recommended Health Protocols and safety checklists
  dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx#protocols
COVID-19 Prevention Messaging

• Get a vaccine as soon as you can
• Continue prevention steps even after vaccination
• Wear a face covering
• Limit contact with others, maintain a physical distance, and avoid crowds
• Fight pandemic fatigue!
Thank you!

dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

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(Reposted with revised date of January 11, 2021 9 a.m.)