

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****June 21, 2022**

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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE CITY'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update on the City's COVID-19 response efforts.

Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) is the City's primary public health provider. In addition, Code Compliance works with other counties/agencies that provide similar services within the City Limits. As a collaborative agency, the City also works with local universities and healthcare providers/systems. This arrangement recognizes that these agencies have an expertise that cannot be easily duplicated or generally distributed across a very large and diverse City.

However, in a state of emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, where public need/demand overwhelms traditional providers, additional support and/or resources from the City and others may be required.

As the health care demand fluctuated (COVID-19 waves/variants), the City increased and decreased support operations accordingly. The impact of these waves/variants on public health services and healthcare systems has steadily decreased as vaccination rates and mitigation strategies have increased. As a result, there is not a significant gap currently for the City to fill. Therefore, the City has stepped down the Joint Emergency Operations Center and only a limited number of City staff and temporary workers remain attached to the response.

TCPH now offers COVID-19 vaccines as a part of their standard immunization services at Immunization Clinics throughout the county. They also operate a mobile vaccination clinic that travels throughout the county and continues to host pop-up clinics by request. The federal government has recently released additional/free at home test kits and testing/vaccination services can be found at traditional pharmacies, healthcare providers, and others with low and no-cost options available.

Code Compliance will continue to operate the City's COVID-19 Hotline (817-392-8478) and is actively monitoring community demand for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. Through the COVID-19 Hotline, community members can receive: education, assistance with COVID-19 resources such as free rapid and PCR test access, vaccination clinic locations and vaccine verification/records.

The City will continue to keep residents in the loop and provide public education through our various outlets, stand ready to participate in community meetings and events, collaborate with other agencies and doing everything we can to further increase vaccination rates/better public health (currently 62% for fully vaccinated residents over 5 years old in Tarrant County).

The City remains vigilant and prepared to assist with any future service gaps/demands. As part of this "stand-ready" phase, staff are conducting after-action activities to include updating public health emergency response plans. At the same time, our partners at Tarrant County Public Health, adjoining counties and healthcare systems are doing the same thing. This is resulting in greater preparedness and future capacity building.

Questions on this material should be addressed to Brandon Bennett, Code Compliance Director at (817) 392-6322.

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City Manager