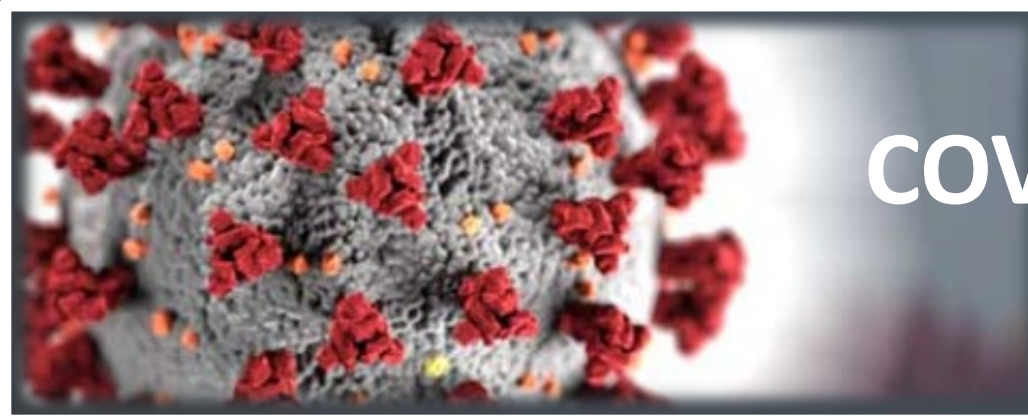




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**Texas Department of State
Health Services**



COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Vaccine Update

March 10, 2021

John W. Hellerstedt, MD, Commissioner
Imelda M. Garcia, Associate Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services

Overview

- COVID-19 Timeline & Statistics
- Pandemic Response
- Vaccine Rollout
- Vaccine Communication
- Therapeutics Research

COVID-19 Timeline & Statistics



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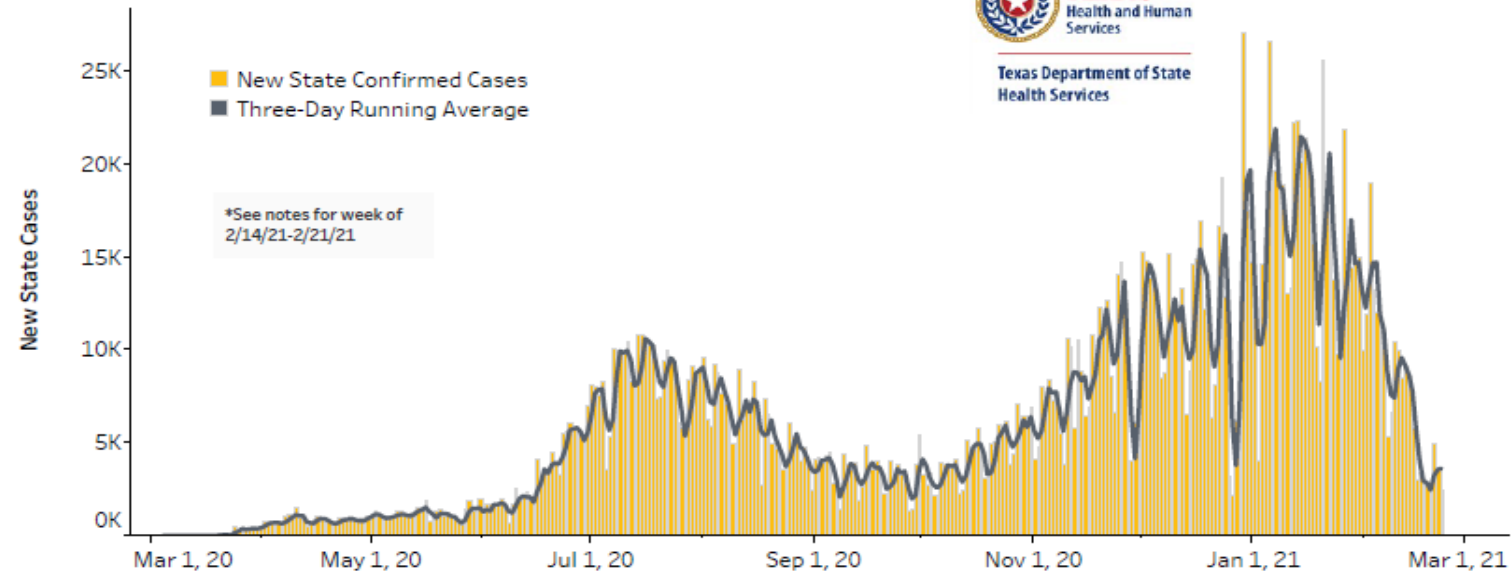
COVID-19 Timeline

- **December 31, 2019:** Municipal Health Commission reported cases of pneumonia with an unknown cause in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China
- **January 7, 2020:** Chinese authorities identified a new (novel) type of coronavirus
- **January 21:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed first case of novel coronavirus in the U.S. in Washington state
- **January 23:** DSHS launched the dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/ website and prepared #TexasDSHS social media campaigns
- **January 31:** DSHS activated the State Medical Operations Center (SMOC)

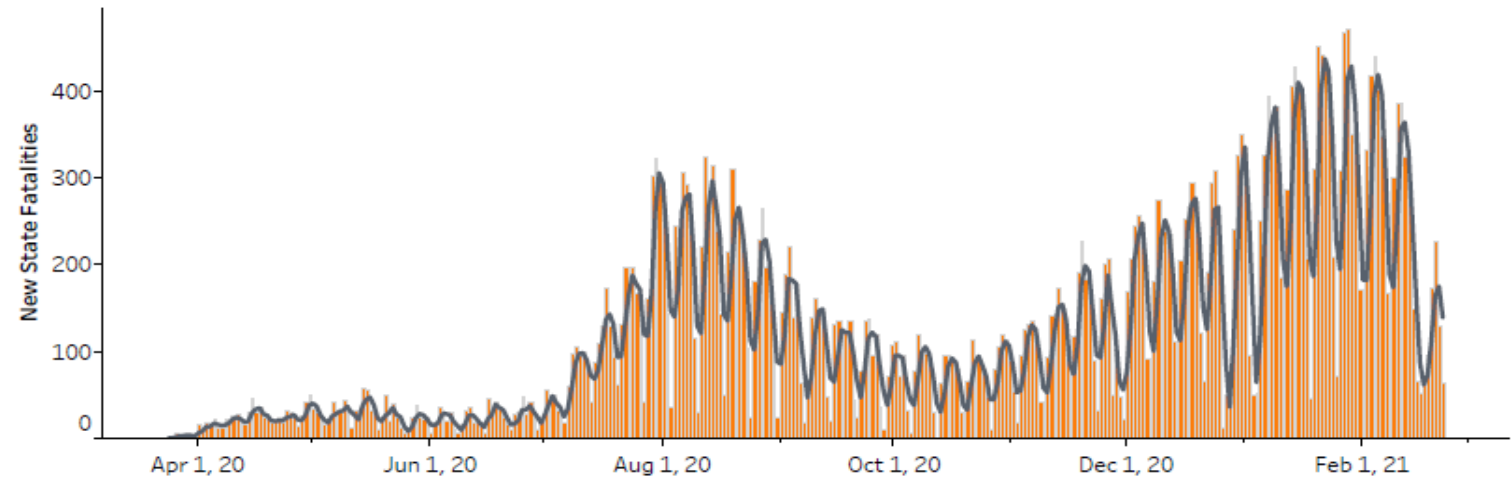
COVID-19 Timeline

- **March 4:** DSHS announced the first positive test result for COVID-19
- **March 17:** DSHS announced the first lab-confirmed COVID-19 death
- **March 19:** DSHS Commissioner Hellerstedt declared a Public Health Disaster for Texas
- **October:** DSHS assembled the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP)
- **November 10:** DSHS launched a COVID-19 Vaccine Information Website
- **December 14:** DSHS distributed the first COVID-19 vaccine doses
- **February 12, 2021:** 1 million people fully vaccinated in Texas
- **March 9, 2021:** 2,326,885 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in all 254 Texas counties with 44,650 fatalities

New Confirmed Texas Cases by Day



New Texas Fatalities by Day



These preliminary data are current as of 1:00pm on 2/22/2021.

Note: As of July 27, DSHS is reporting COVID-19 fatality data based on death certificates. The metric used in these charts reports total newly reported fatalities (as opposed to the date of death).

Note: During the week of Feb. 14-Feb. 21, 2021, case and fatality reporting was significantly impacted across the majority of Texas counties due to weather-related issues.

Hospitalizations Over Time

Total Texas Proportion of Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Occupancy of General and ICU Beds out of Total Hospital Beds as of:



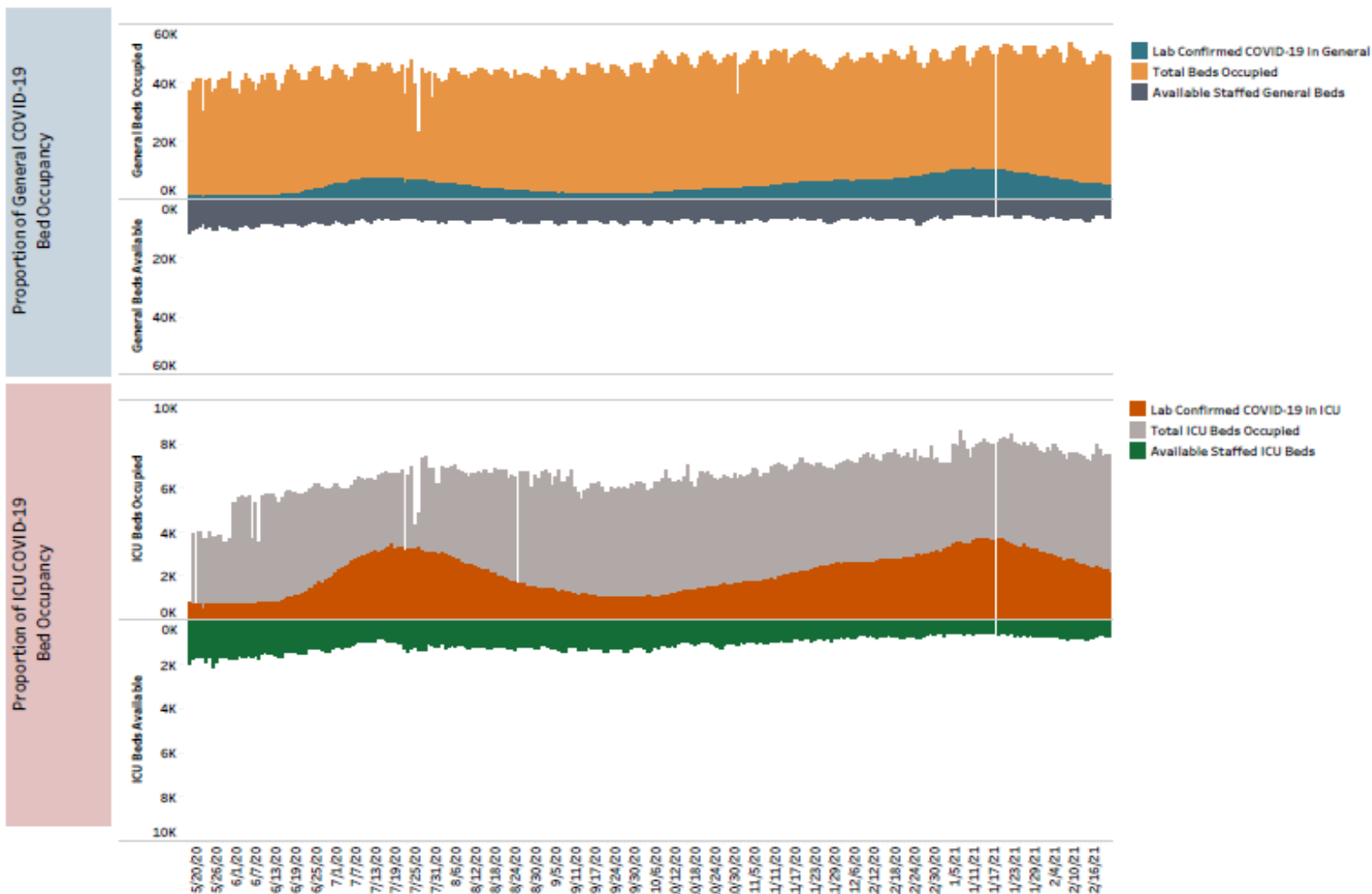
Texas Department of State
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Sunday, February 21, 2021 Totals

Lab Confirmed COVID-19 in General	4,762
Lab Confirmed COVID-19 in ICU	2,114
Total Lab Confirmed COVID-19 Gen + ICU	6,876

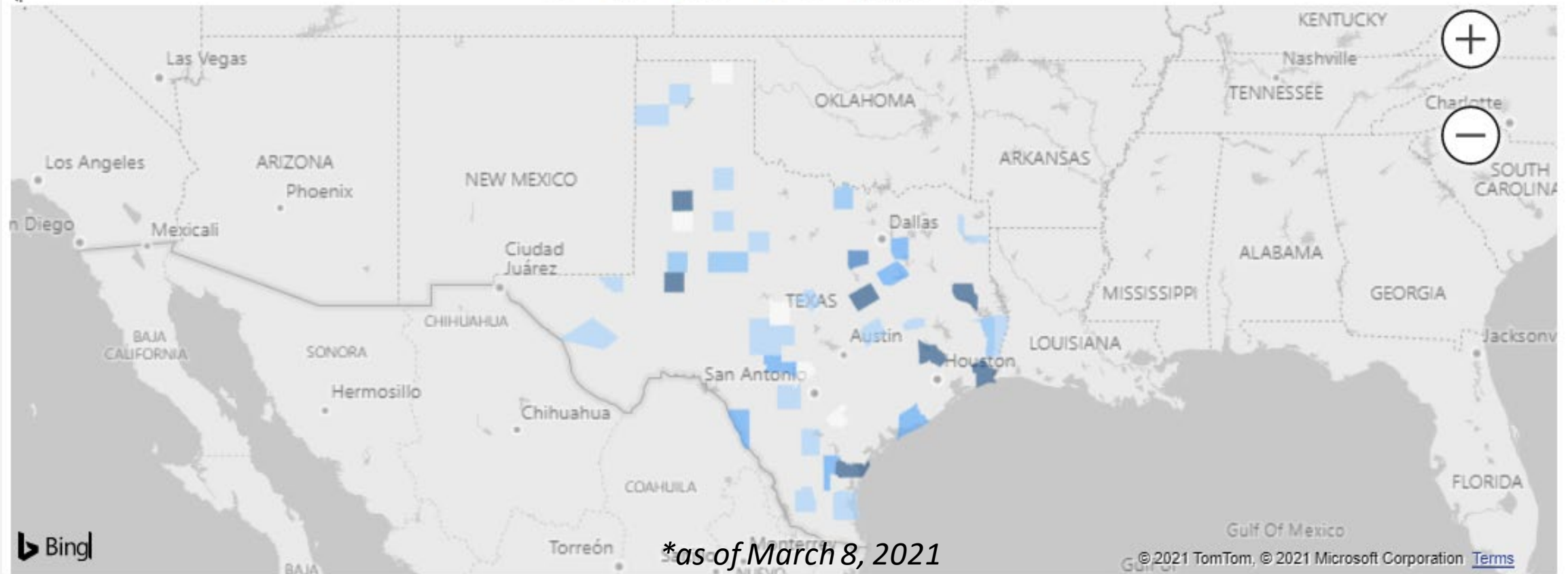
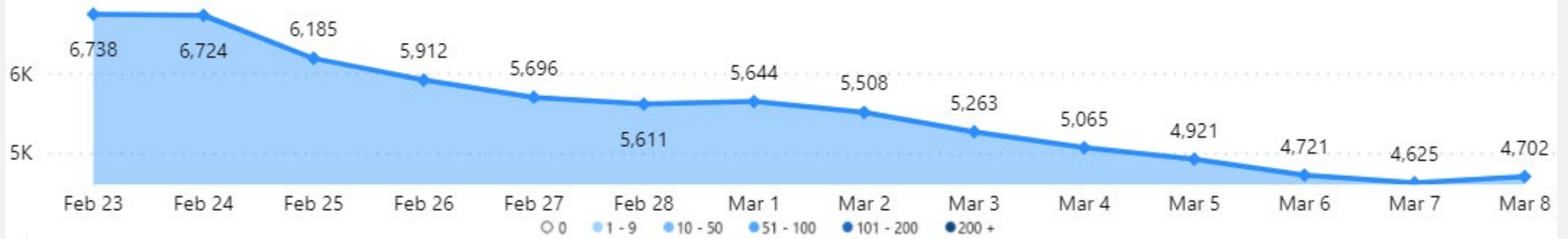
Notes:

- The most recent hospital data is reported for the day prior.
- After 7/23/2020, DSHS reported incomplete hospitalization numbers due to a transition in reporting to comply with new federal requirements.



These preliminary data are current as of 1:00pm on 2/22/2021.

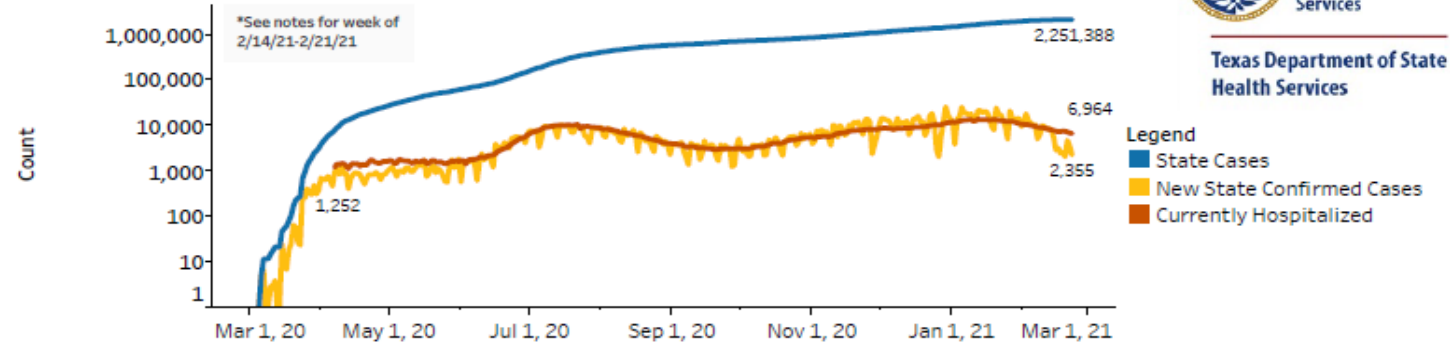
Total Lab Confirmed Patients in Hospital



**as of March 8, 2021*

Texas COVID-19 Trends: A Full Picture

Total Texas Covid-19 Confirmed Cases, Confirmed New Cases, and Current Confirmed Hospitalizations

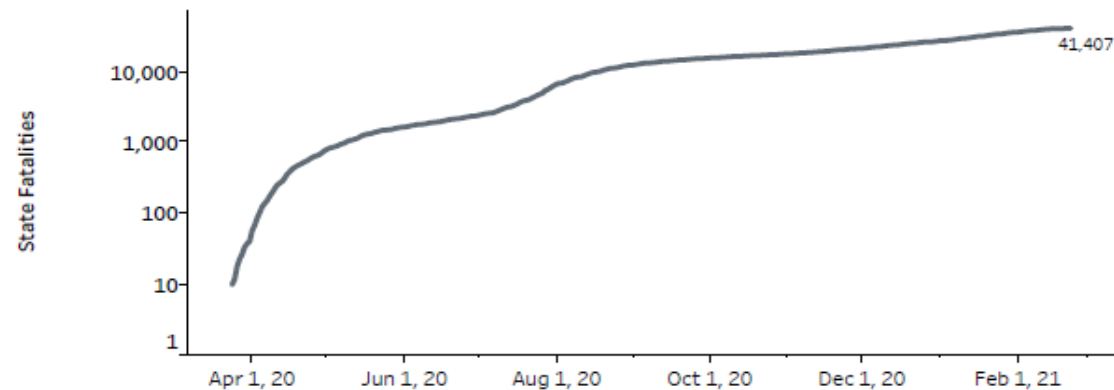


These preliminary data are current as of 1:00pm on 2/22/2021.

Notes:

• After 7/23/2020, DSHS is reporting incomplete hospitalization numbers due to a transition in reporting to comply with new federal requirements. As of 8/19/2020, 91% of hospitals were reporting.

Total Texas Covid-19 Fatalities

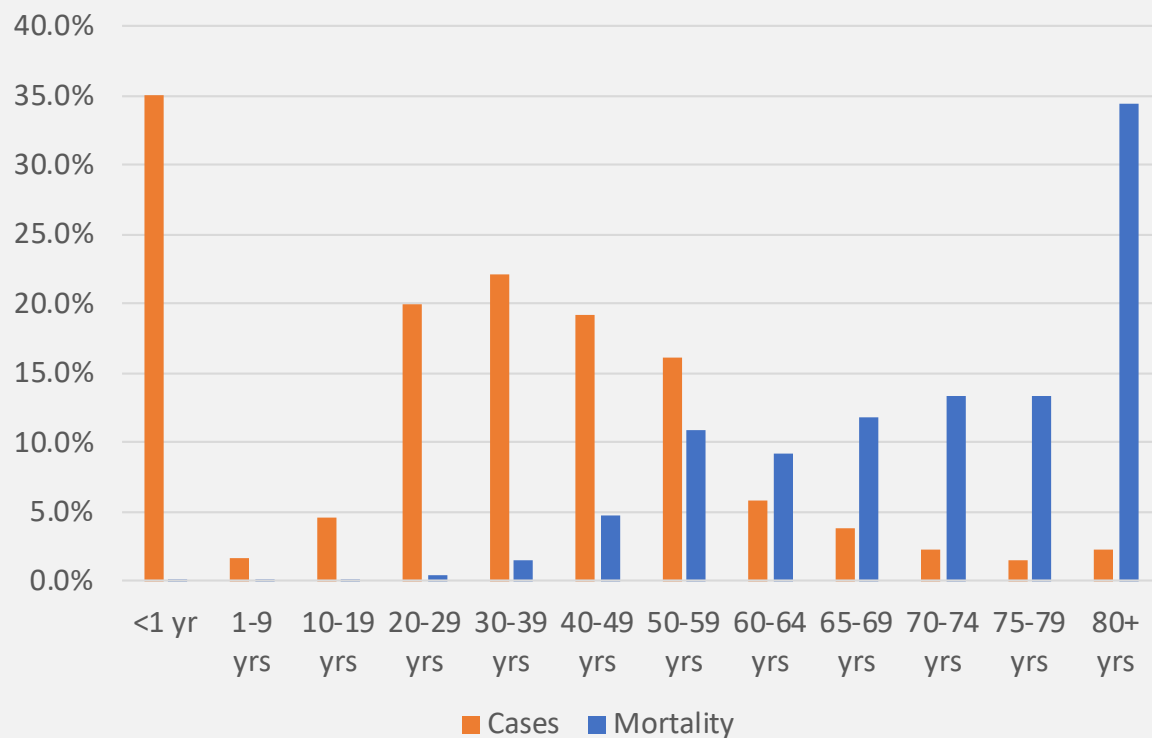


Note: As of July 27, 2020, DSHS is reporting COVID-19 fatality data based on death certificates. The metric used in these charts reports total newly reported fatalities (as opposed to the date of death).

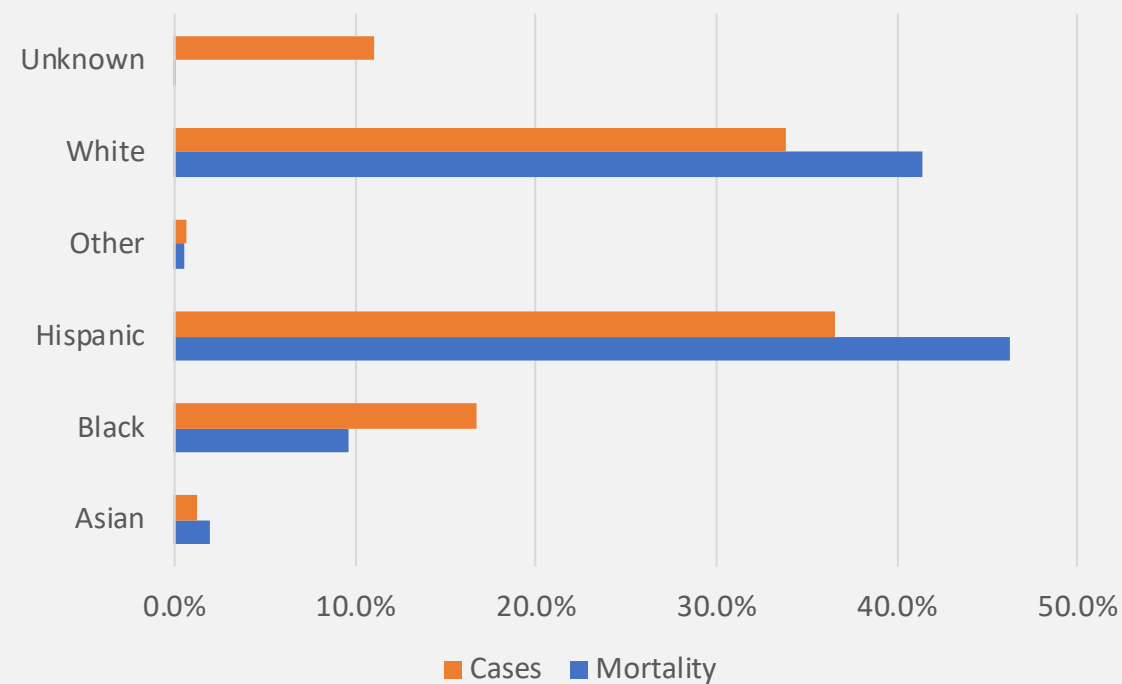
Note: During the week of Feb. 14-Feb. 21, 2021, case and fatality reporting was significantly impacted across the majority of Texas counties due to weather-related issues.

Demographics

Cases & Mortality by Age



Cases & Mortality by Race/Ethnicity



**as of March 7, 2021*

Pandemic Response



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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 education and 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 and expanding it further to safely and appropriately disseminate vaccine

COVID Response by the Numbers

401

days of emergency response
activation

1,567

DSHS staff working on COVID
response

193,000

COVID data points collected
and processed daily

7,332

vaccinators fully registered
to administer COVID vaccine

13,737

maximum medical surge
staff deployed

229

hospitals supported with
medical surge staff

82,781

calls or emails to DSHS Call
Center staff

6,970,799

doses administered

3,561

public health follow up staff
supporting local health
departments

75,385

COVID tests performed by
the state public health
laboratory

81,701

patient courses of monoclonal
antibodies allocated to treat
COVID patients

2,463,006

persons fully vaccinated

1,340

Alternate Care Beds

140

Isolation and Quarantine
Sites

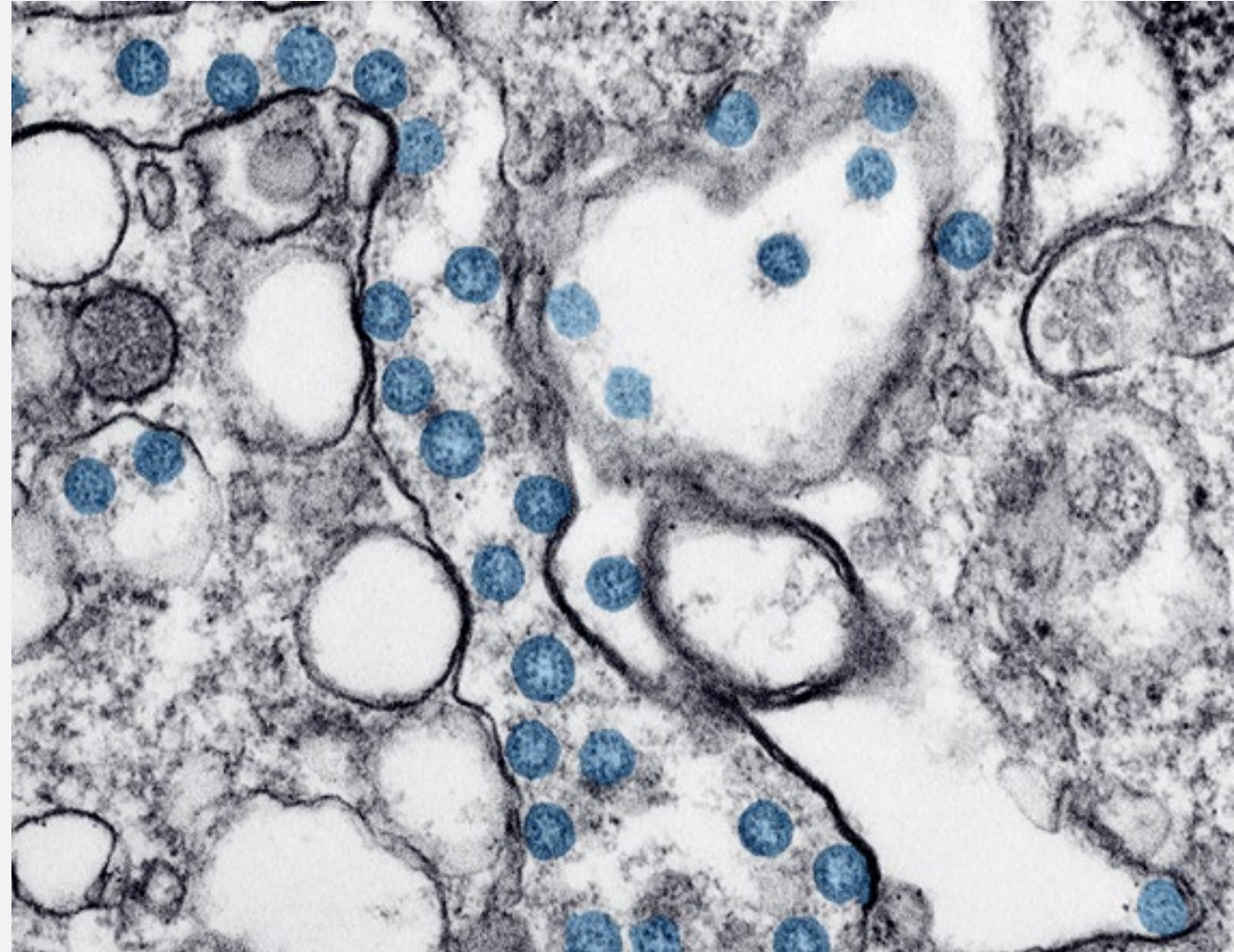
2,965

State of Texas Assistance
Request related to the
pandemic

**as of March 9, 2021*

Pandemic Hurdles Addressed

- Expanding initial testing capacity & managing PPE scarcity
- Expanding and standardizing testing, hospital, and mortality reporting
- Scaling public health follow up
- Addressing COVID-19 hospitalizations
- Adapting prevention messaging as new scientific data emerges
- Scaling vaccine effort to meet statewide need and demand



Pandemic Response Overview

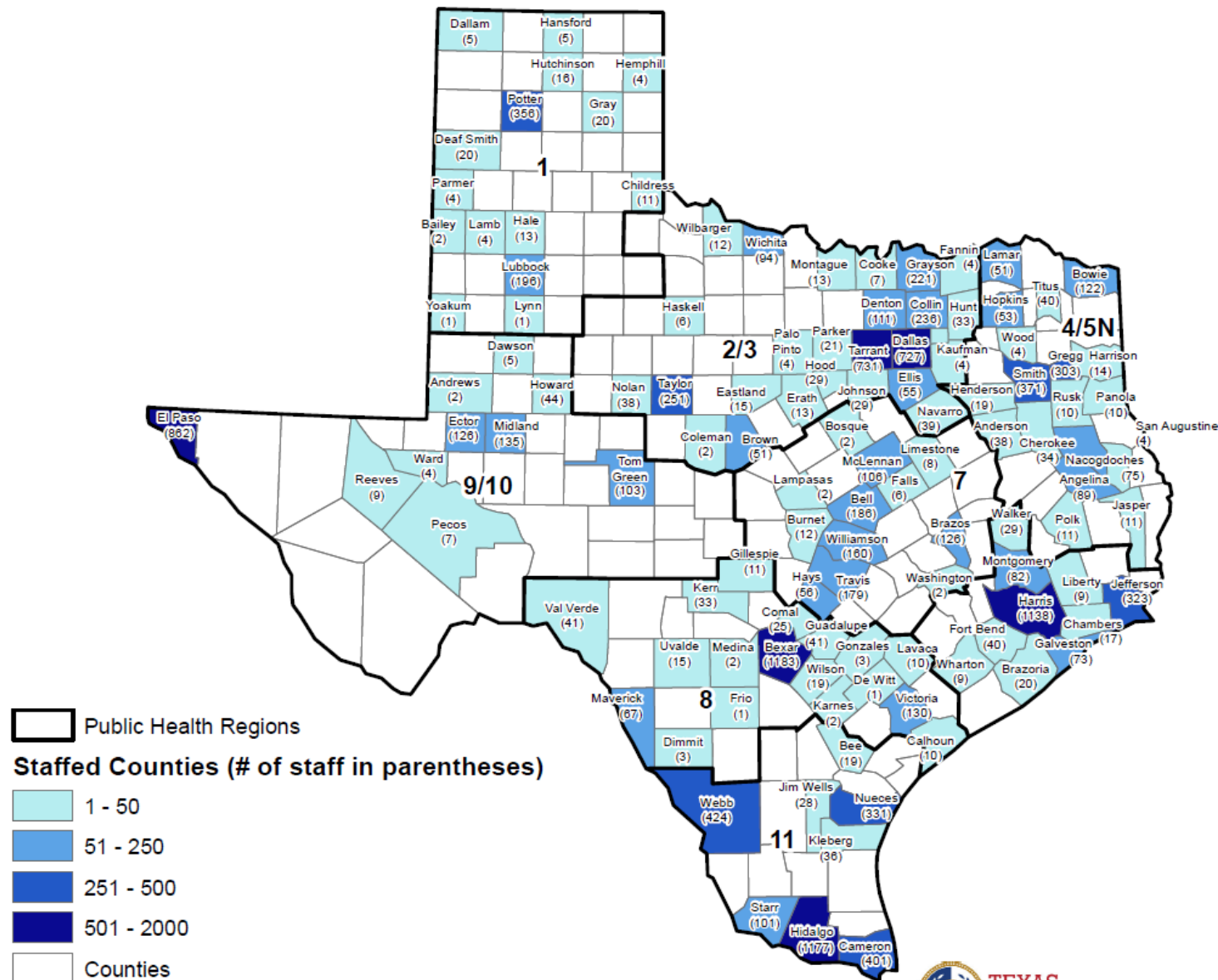
- Rapidly modernized the lab result reporting system- National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS)
 - Increasing daily lab result ingestion by 9,990% (from 2,000 to 200,000 per day)
- Processed 89,040 hospitalizations data points from Texas healthcare facilities on daily basis
 - Over 20 million COVID-19 data points collected from hospitals to date
- Developed a functioning statewide public health follow up system in less than three weeks
 - Mature system within five months with significant participation by local health jurisdictions
 - Grew DSHS-supported public health follow up staff from 115 to 2,400
- Supported responses to more than 600 facility outbreaks
- DSHS given “A” grade from The COVID Tracking Project for data transparency
 - Based on consistent, reliable, and complete reporting including patient outcomes and demographics

COVID-19 Pandemic Expenditures (Estimated)

Category	How much we spent
Medical Surge Staffing	\$4.5 Billion
Local Response	\$261.3 Million
Disease Surveillance	\$160.8 Million
Local Contracts	\$67.3 Million
Lab Costs	\$27.7 Million
Repatriation	\$5.5 Million
Other Costs	\$0.5 Million
Total	\$5.0 Billion

**as of March 9, 2021*

Deployed DSHS Medical Surge Staff Support - 02/23/2021

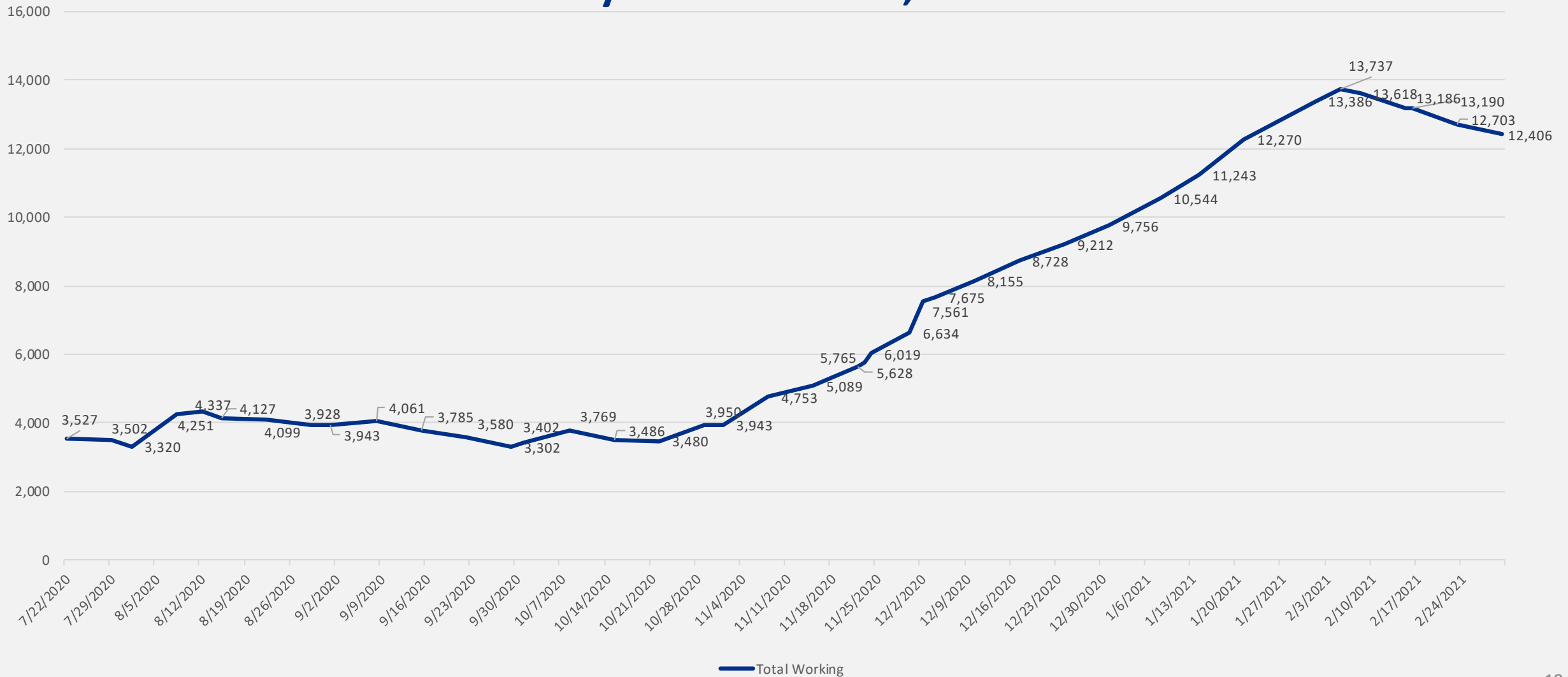


Current Staff Deployed:
11,702
(staff demobilization continues)

Maximum Staff Deployed:
13,737

Medical Surge Staff Working

July 2020-March 5, 2021



Federal Grants to Support COVID-19 Expenses

Grantor	Description	Total in Millions	Uses
FEMA	Public Assistance - FEMA Category B	\$2,399.6	General disaster public assistance. The funds require a 25% state match. Additional funds can be requested.
Dept of Treasury	Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)- CARES Act	\$2,009.5	Various uses, funds allocated to DSHS for direct care medical staffing needs.
CDC	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act/Epi & Lab Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion	\$1,535.4	Develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, and related activities.
CDC	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act/Epi & Lab Capacity for Testing (PPPHEA-ELC)	\$473.6	Develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, and related activities.
CDC	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act/Implementation and Expansion of the Vaccine Program	\$227.1	Vaccine distribution and administration
CDC	Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations (Crisis CoAg)	\$55.1	Crisis response and recovery, information and surge management, surveillance
CDC	CARES Act/Epi & Lab Capacity to Reopen America. (ELC)	\$39.1	Surveillance, epidemiology, lab capacity, data surveillance and analytics infrastructure, disseminating information about testing, and workforce support necessary to expand and improve COVID-19 testing.
CDC	COVID-19 Supplemental via 2020 CARES ACT Round 1	\$14.4	Plan and implement COVID-19 vaccination services
CDC	PPPHEA National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases	\$10.1	Enhanced Influenza-COVID19 response for staffing, communication, preparedness and vaccination, with emphasis on enrolling new vaccinators. Funds may not be used to purchase vaccines.
CDC	COVID-19 Supplemental via 2020 CARES ACT Round 2	\$10.1	Plan and implement COVID-19 vaccination services

Federal Grants to Support COVID-19 Expenses

Grantor	Description	Total in Millions	Uses
ASPR	CARES Act - Hospital Preparedness Program Supplemental Award for COVID-19 (CARES HPP)	\$8.7	Urgent preparedness and response needs of hospitals, health systems, and health care workers on the front lines.
CDC	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act Epi & Lab Capacity	\$5.4	focus on genetic testing lab preparedness; and ensuring safe travel through optimized data sharing and communication with international travelers
CDC	ELC /Healthcare-associated Infections/ Antimicrobial Resistance Program (ELC-HAI)	\$3.7	Funds support Project Firstline, a CDC training collaborative for health care infection prevention and control.
HRSA	CARES Act - Ryan White HIVAIDS	\$1.5	Infrastructure and practice improvement needed to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 for Texans living with HIV.
HUD	CARES Act - Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS COVID-19 Supplemental (CARES HOPWA)	\$0.7	Allowable activities authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act to maintain housing for low-income persons living with HIV (PLWH) and their households.
ASPR	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPPHEA) (PPP HPP Ebola)	\$0.4	Funds dedicated for Special Pathogen Hospital to increase the capability of health care systems to safely manage individuals with suspected and confirmed COVID-19.
ASPR	CARES Act - Hospital Preparedness Program Ebola (CARES HPP Ebola)	\$0.3	Funds dedicated for Special Pathogen Hospital to increase the capability of health care systems to safely manage individuals with suspected and confirmed COVID-19.
CDC	Rape Prevention & Education: Using the Best Available Evidence for Sexual Violence Prevention - COVID-19	\$0.3	The OAG will interagency cooperation contracts with Texas Association Against Sexual Violence and Texas A&M University Health Science Center to enhance existing activities that address the most pressing COVID-19 related violence issues including Intimate Partner Violence
HHS	ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure – COVID-19	\$0.2	Development of a training and educational module on safe ways to disinfect for COVID-19 at home-based child care facilities.
USDA	Cooperative State Meat and Poultry Inspection – COVID-19	\$0.01	COVID-19 specific prevention and safety activities.

Vaccine Rollout



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Phased Approach

Phase 0 (Oct.-Nov. 2020)

- Planning and provider recruitment

Phase 1 (Dec. 2020-Present)

- Limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses available

Phase 2 (Mar.-July 2021)

- Increased number of vaccine doses available

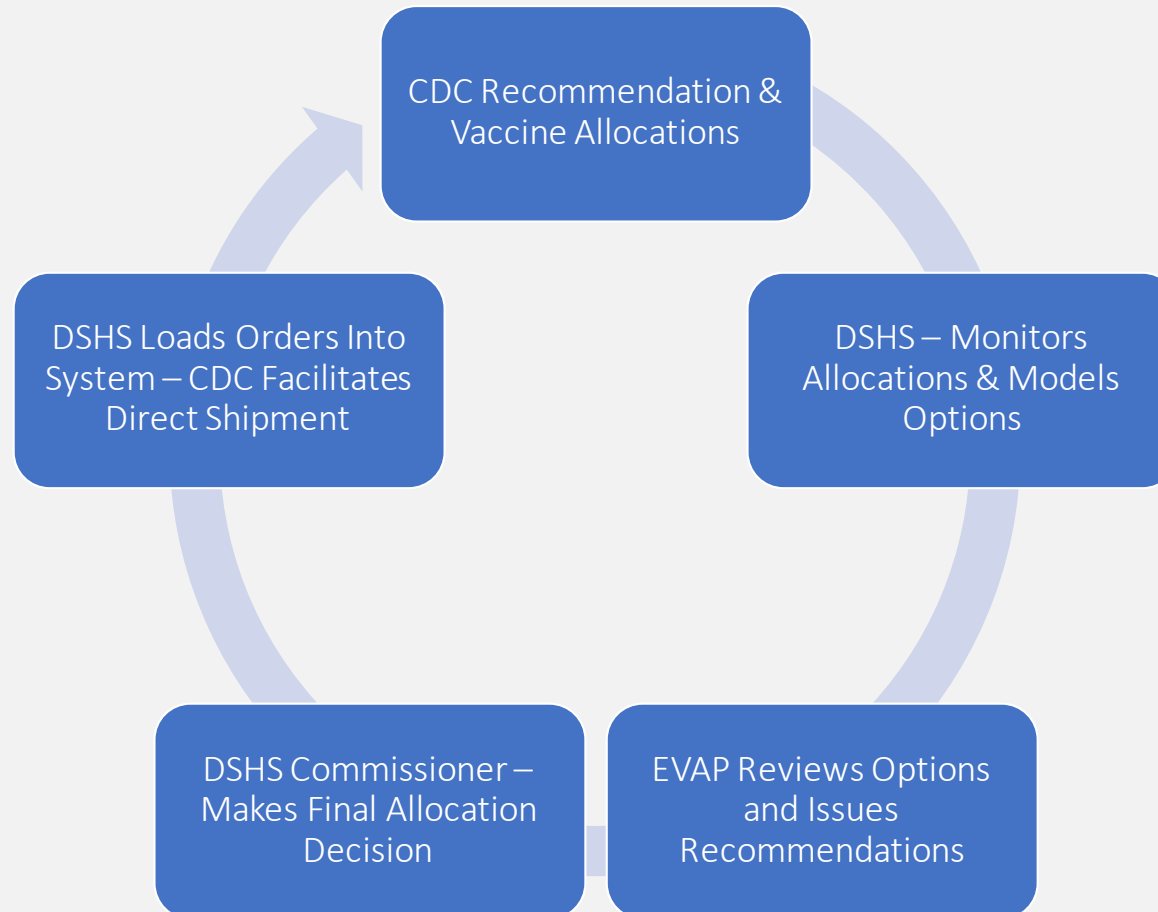
Phase 3 (July - Oct. 2021)

- Sufficient supply of vaccine doses for entire population

Phase 4 (Oct. 2021 forward)

- Sufficient supply of vaccine with decreased need due to most of population being vaccinated previously

Vaccine Distribution Process



COVID-19 Expert Vaccination Allocation Panel (EVAP)

- Texas has convened a team of appointed external and internal subject-matter experts into the COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel to develop vaccine allocation strategies as recommendations to the Texas Commissioner of Health.
- The panel has developed guiding principles and utilizes in their recommendations.
- The recommendations from the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel will be sent to the Texas Commissioner of Health for final approval.
- EVAP voting members
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/evap.aspx>



Texas Vaccine Allocation Guiding Principles

Texas will allocate COVID-19 vaccines that are in limited supply based on:

- **Protecting healthcare workers** who fill a critical role in caring for and preserving the lives of COVID-19 patients and maintaining the healthcare infrastructure for all who need it.
- **Protecting front -line workers** who are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of their work providing critical services and preserving the economy.
- **Protecting vulnerable populations** who are at greater risk of severe disease and death if they contract COVID-19.
- **Mitigating health inequities** due to factors such as demographics, poverty, insurance status, and geography.
- **Data-driven allocations** using the best available scientific evidence and epidemiology at the time, allowing for flexibility for local conditions.
- **Geographic diversity** through a balanced approach that considers access in urban and rural communities and in affected ZIP codes.
- **Transparency** through sharing allocations with the public and seeking public feedback.

Texas Phase 1A and 1B Definitions

Phase 1A, Tier 1	Phase 1A, Tier 2	Phase 1B
• Paid & unpaid workers in hospital settings working directly with patients who are positive or at high risk for COVID-19 • Long-term care staff working directly with vulnerable residents • EMS providers who engage in 911 emergency services like pre-hospital care and transport • Home health care workers, including hospice care, who directly interface with vulnerable and high-risk patients • Residents of long-term care facilities	• Staff in outpatient care settings who interact with symptomatic patients • Direct care staff in freestanding emergency medical care facilities and urgent care clinics • Community pharmacy staff who may provide direct services to clients, including vaccination or testing for individual who may have COVID-19 • Public health and emergency response staff directly involved in administration of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations • Last responders who provide mortuary or death services to decedents with COVID-19 • School nurses who provide health care to students and teachers	• People 65 years of age and older • People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19

~ 13.5 million Texans in Phase 1A and 1B

Federal Directive: School/Daycare Settings

- **Tuesday, March 5th:** DSHS notified by US Health and Human Services that all COVID-19 providers should include school and daycare staff on list of people eligible to be vaccinated
- **Includes:**
 - "those who work in pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools, as well as Head Start and Early Head Start programs (including teachers, staff, and bus drivers)" and
 - "those who work as or for licensed child care providers, including center based and family care providers."
- **Effect in Texas:** Texas 1A & 1B populations, and persons meeting school/daycare staff criteria outlined above are eligible to receive vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine: Texas Milestones



- **December 14, 2020: First doses of COVID-19 Vaccine arrive in Texas**
- **December 21, 2020: DSHS announces Phase 1B** population definition
- **December 23, 2020: DSHS announced vaccinating Phase 1A & 1B** population.
- **January 14, 2021: 1 Million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Texas**
 - 1M Dose administered reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by January 9, 2021
- **January 28, 2021: 2 Million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Texas**
 - 2M Dose administered reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by January 24, 2021
- **February 6, 2021: 3 Million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Texas**
 - 3M Dose administered reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by February 5, 2021
- **February 12, 2021: 1 Million Texans fully vaccinated**
 - 1M fully vaccinated reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by February 11, 2021
- **February 13, 2021: 4 Million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Texas**
 - 4M Dose administered reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by February 11, 2021
- **February 26, 2021: 5 Million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Texas**
 - 5M Doses administered reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by February 25, 2021
- **March 3, 2021: 2 Million Texans fully vaccinated**
 - 2M fully vaccinated reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by February 27, 2021
- **March 4, 2021: 6 Million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Texas**
 - 6M Doses administered reported in ImmTrac2 retrospectively by March 2, 2021

Vaccine Distribution – Provider Enrollment

- All interested providers required to register with DSHS
- Must meet ordering, handling, administration, and reporting requirements
- Common registered COVID -19 provider types:
 - Hospitals
 - Health departments
 - Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs)
 - Rural health clinics
 - Long term care facilities
 - Fire departments
 - Medical practices
- Fully-enrolled providers: 7,332

Vaccine Distribution Strategies - State

Community Based Providers	Vaccine Hubs	Other State Programs	DSHS Regions	Other State Initiatives
• Ensure that rural communities and underserved areas have access to vaccine • Register with individual provider	• Mass efforts to quickly vaccinate 1,000s of Phase 1A and 1B individuals each week • Must use all doses and report doses administered to DSHS and Texas Division of Emergency Management • Register online or by phone	• Mobile Vaccine Pilot Program: Vaccination Texas National Guard deployed to certain rural counties • Save Our Seniors: Texas National Guard deployed to vaccinate homebound seniors	• DSHS Region offices hold local clinics • Facilitate open enrollment for providers to serve in hard-to-reach areas	• Federal Qualified Health Centers to reach medically underserved • Long Term Care/Intellectual or Developmental Disability - partnering with pharmacies not served by Federal Long Term Care program

Getting Vaccines to all Texans

Vaccine Distribution Strategies - Federal

Pharmacy Program for Long-Term Care Facilities

- Federal program to vaccinate staff and residents of nursing homes and long-term care
- Partnership with DSHS, HHS, Walgreens and CVS

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program

- Vaccines sent to pharmacies nationwide
- Doses shipped directly to Texas pharmacies will not be deducted from Texas allocations

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Administering doses in Harris, Dallas, and Tarrant Counties
- Doses are on top of state's normal allotment
- EVAP redistributing allocations with excess doses to address needs in other counties to maintain geographic equity

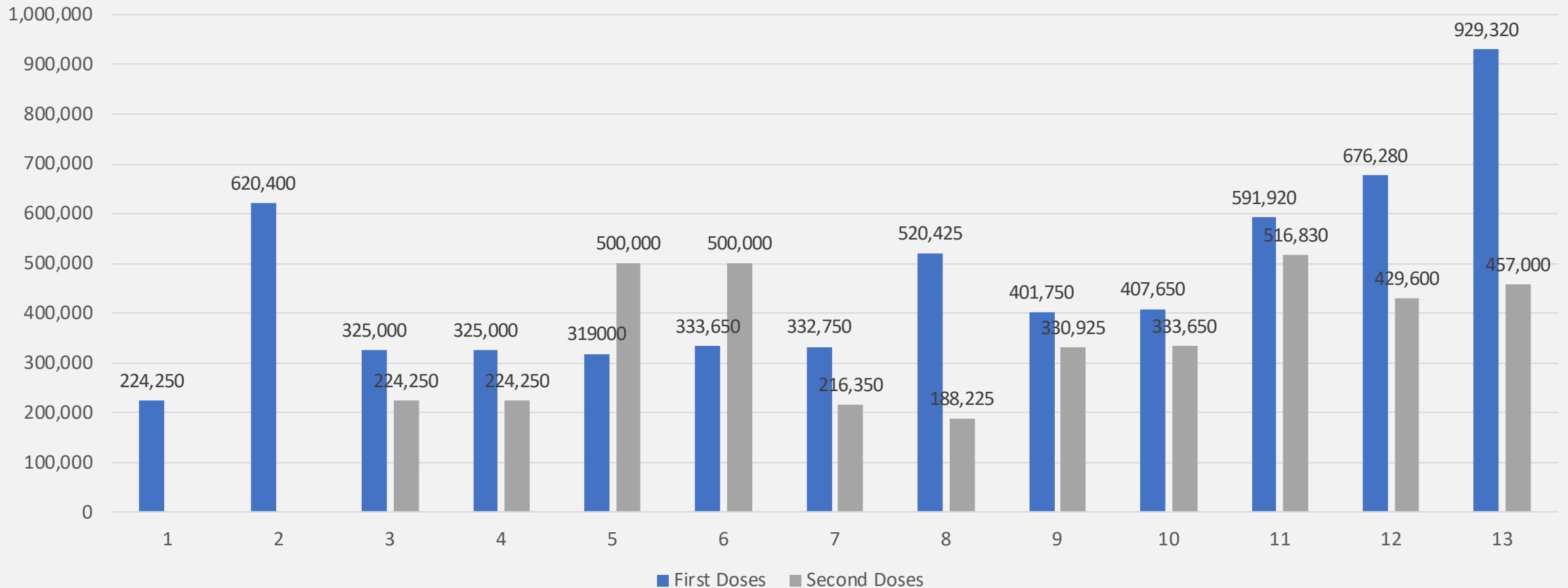
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

- Receiving direct allocations from the Federal Government
- 38 Texas facilities have been announced to receive allotments

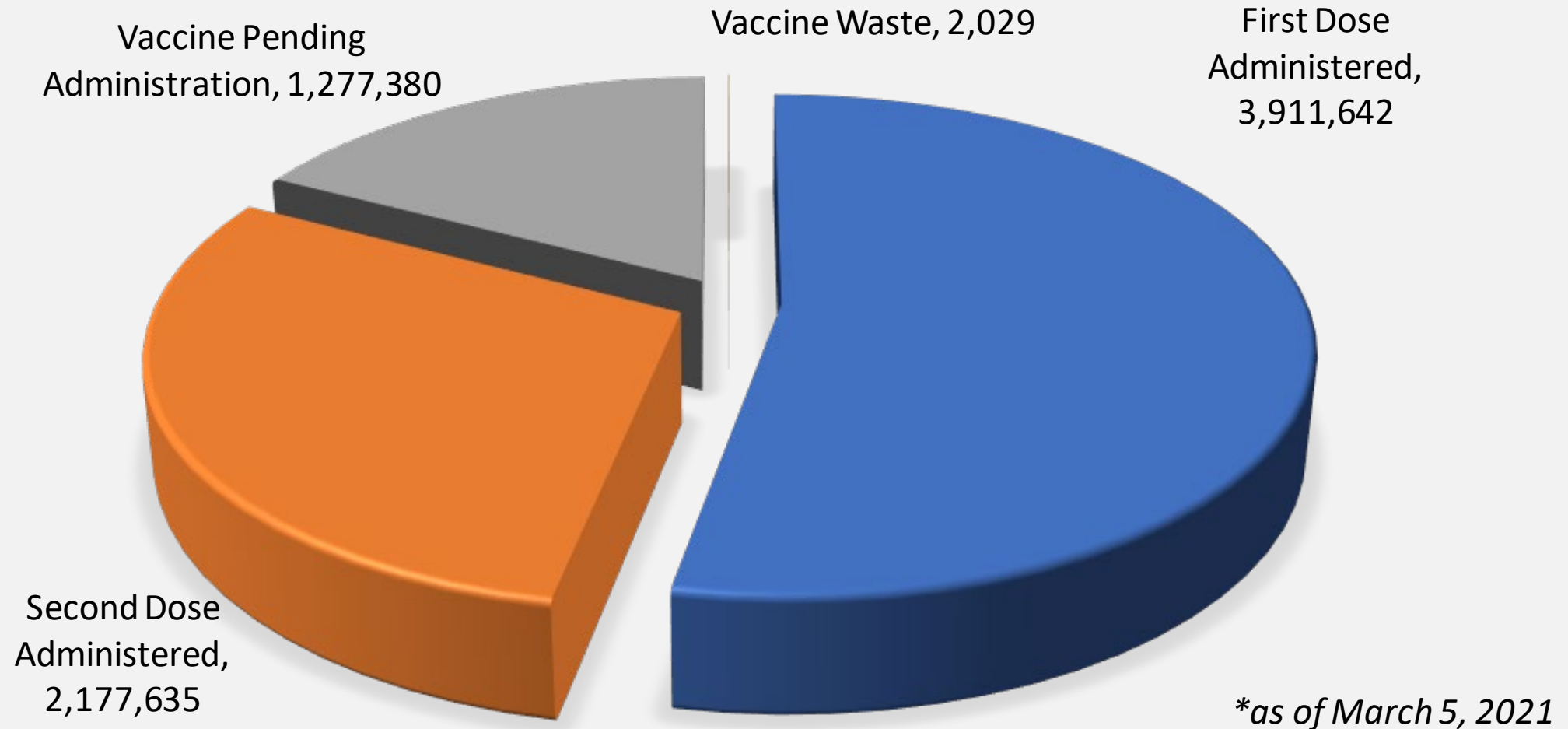
Getting Vaccines to all Texans

Vaccine Allocations Per Week

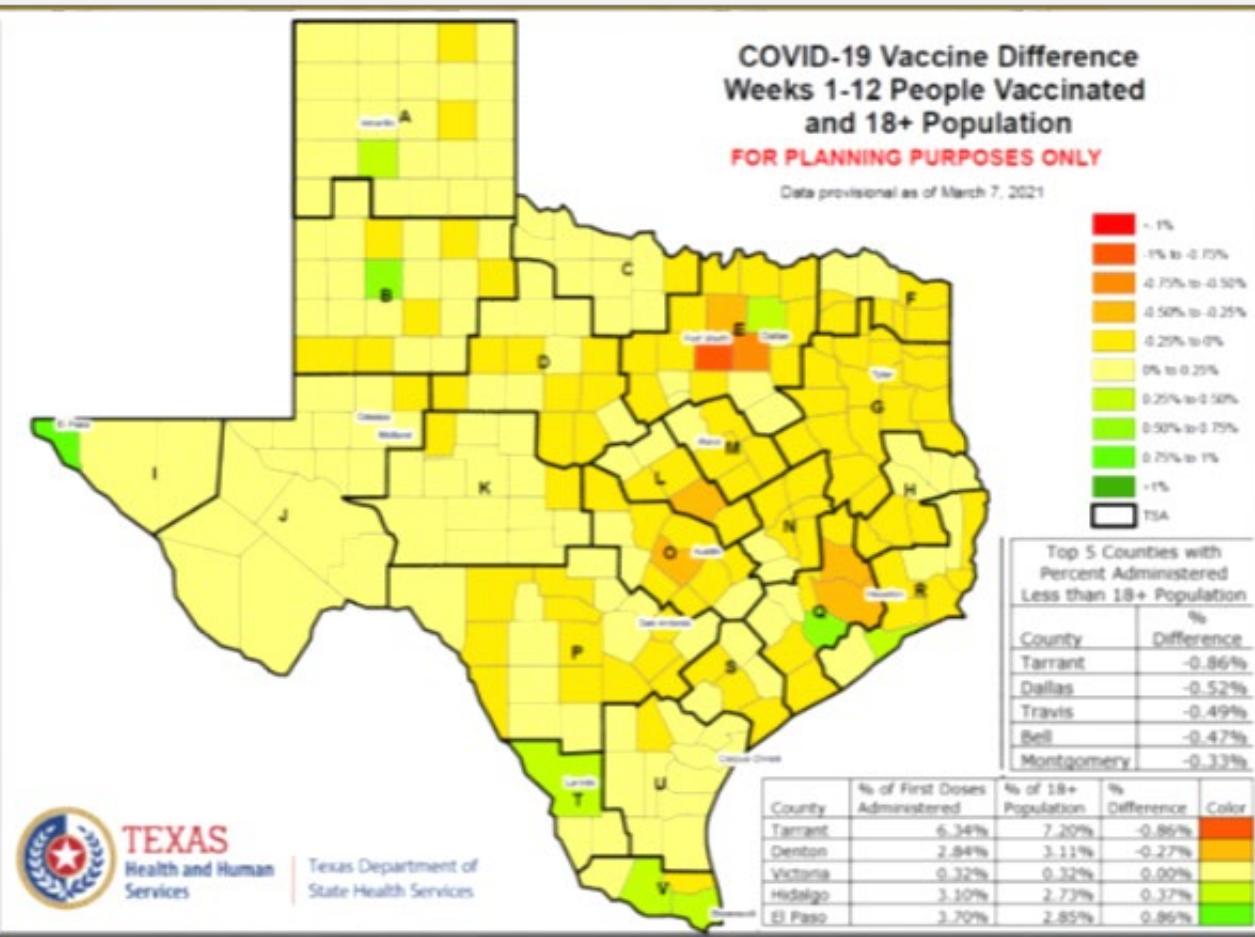
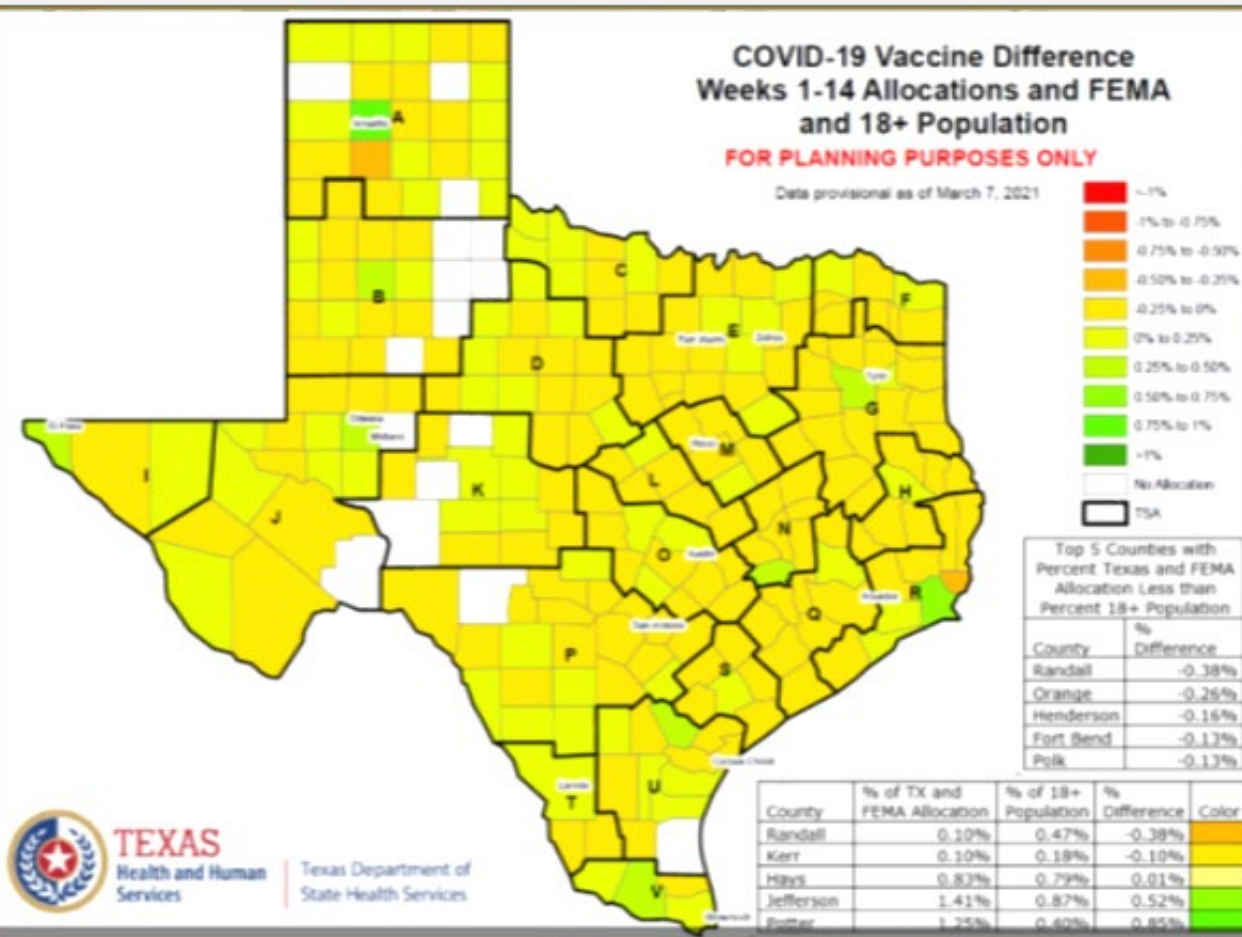
Week 1 - 13 Vaccine Allocations

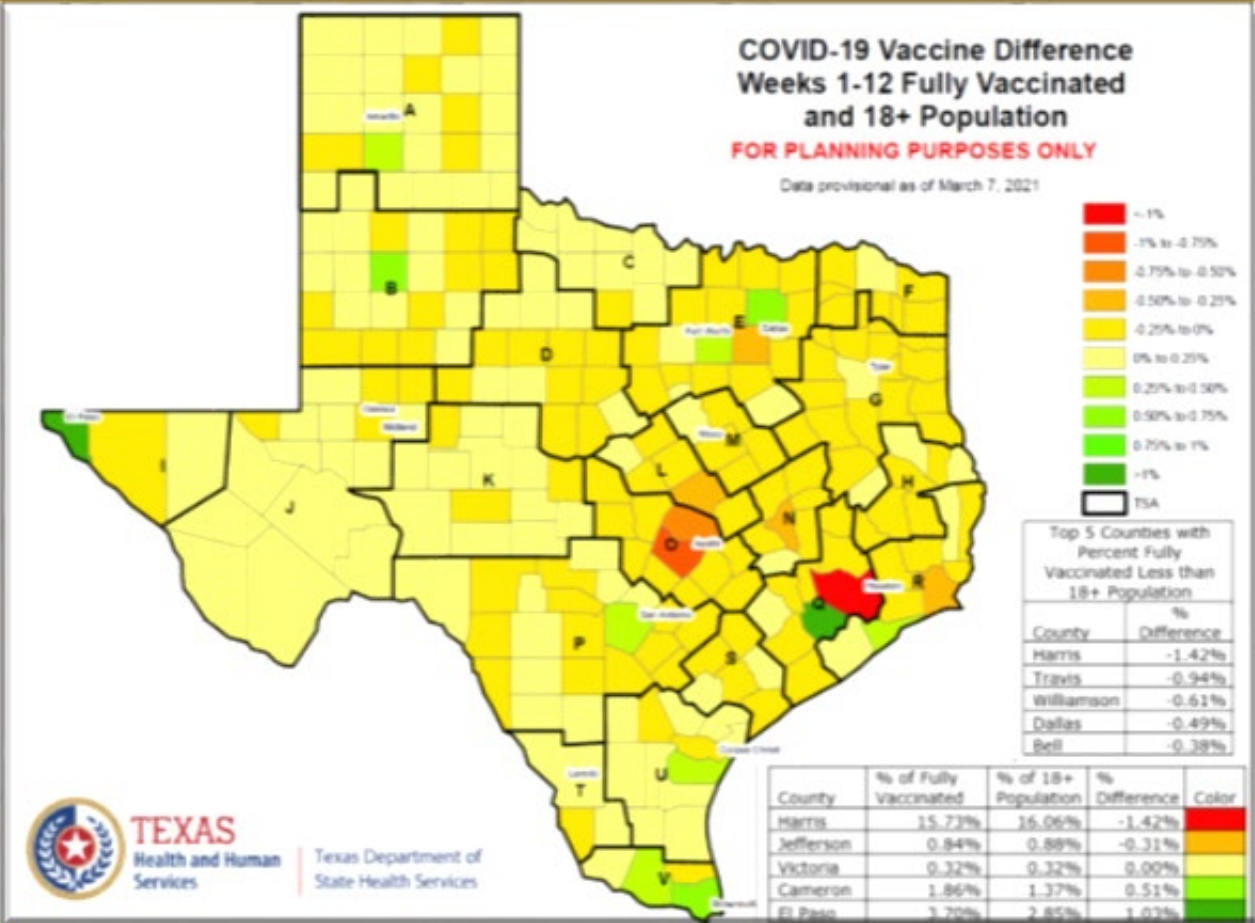
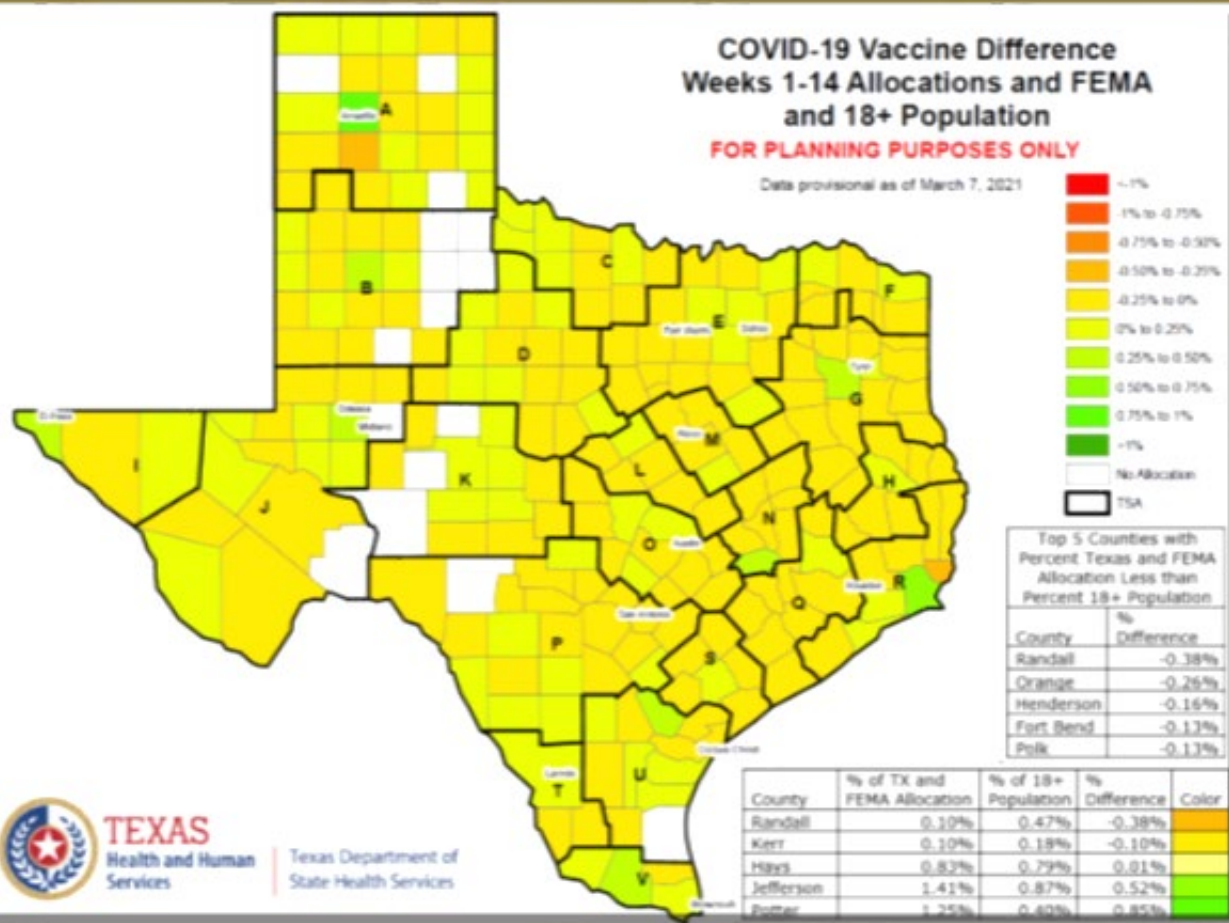


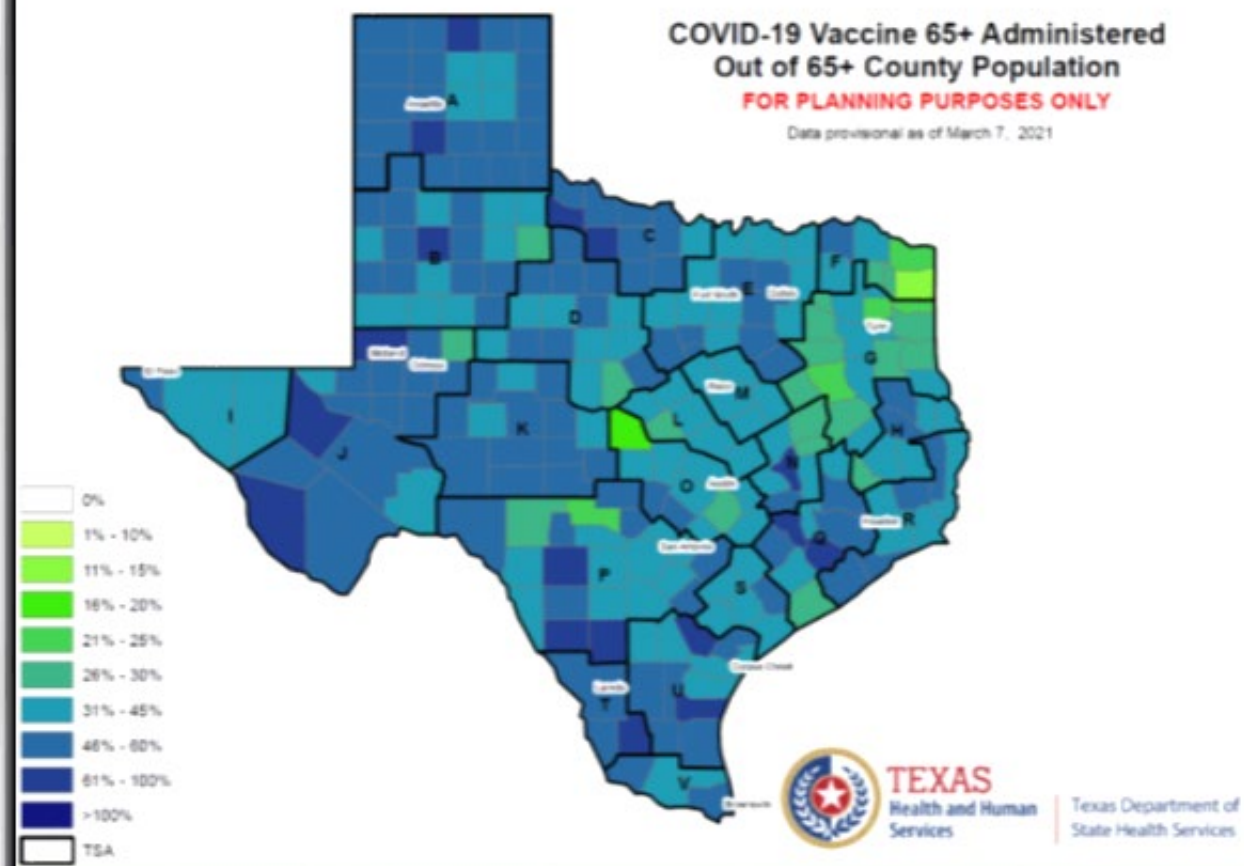
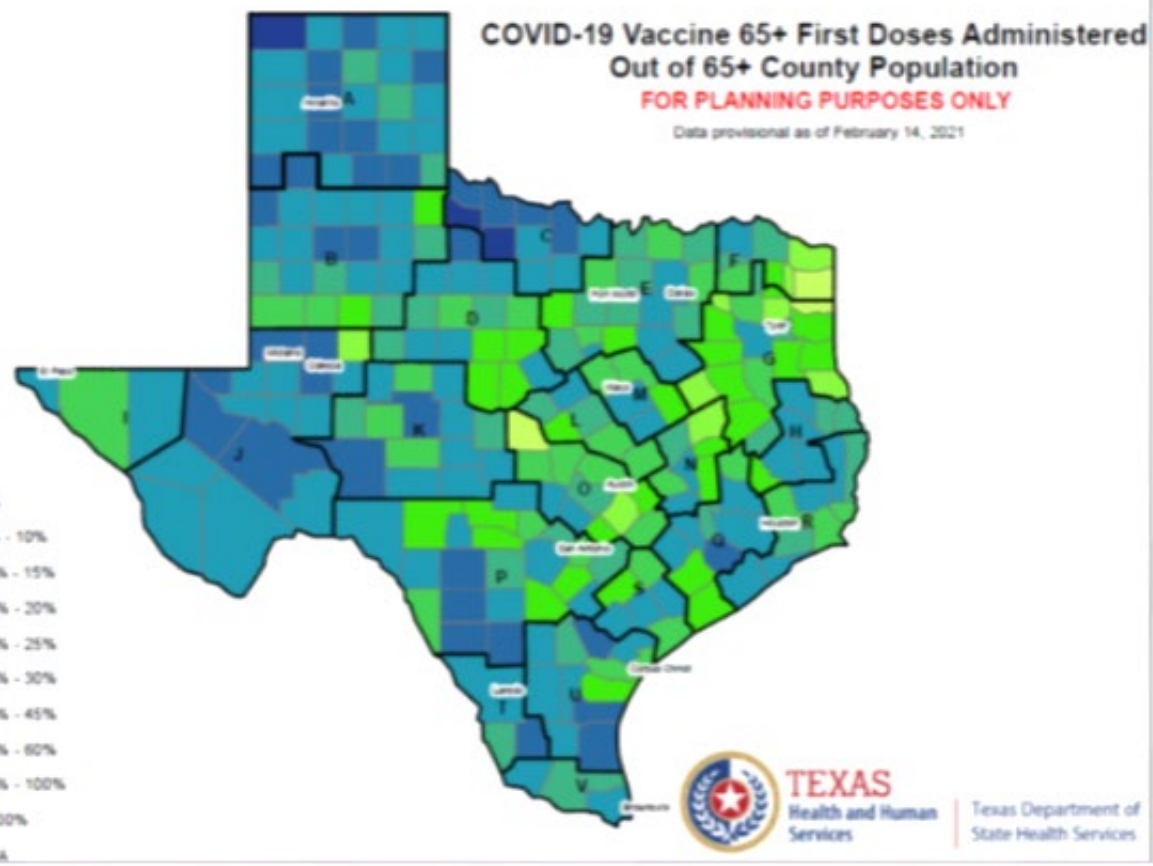
Vaccine Use Breakdown

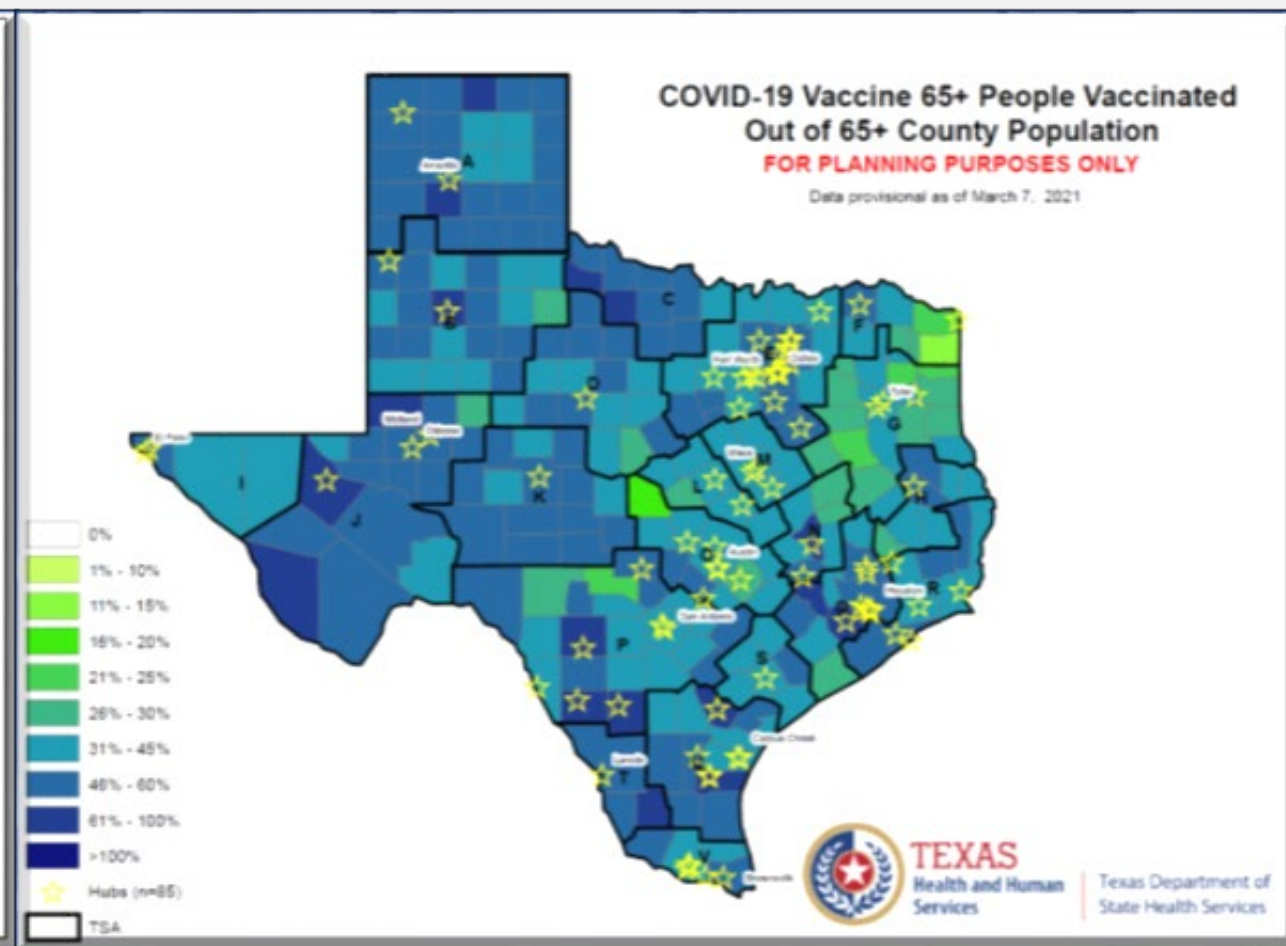
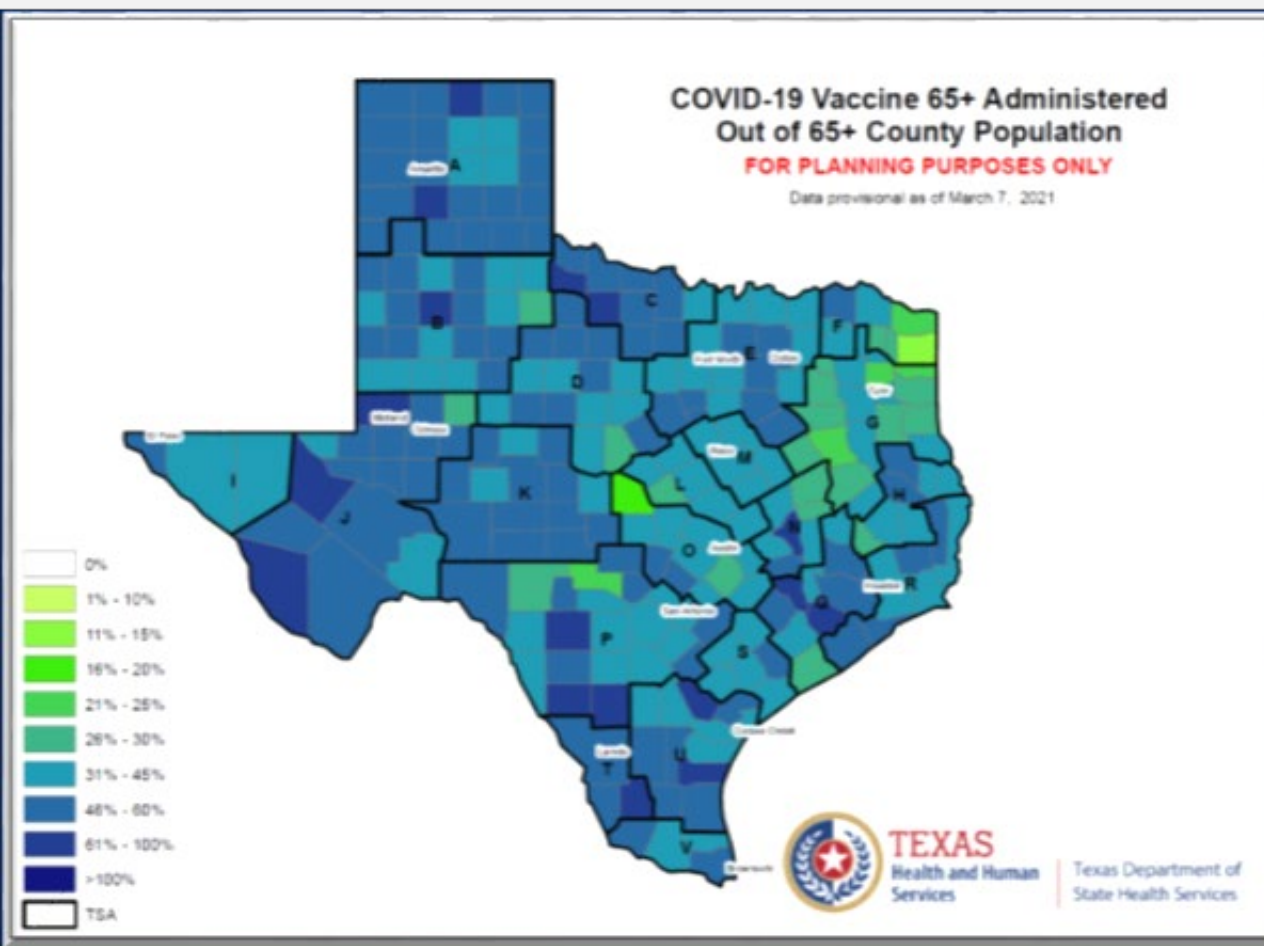


Source: [Workbook: COVID-19 Vaccine in Texas](#) and vaccine waste report at [COVID19VaccineDosesWasted.pdf \(texas.gov\)](#)



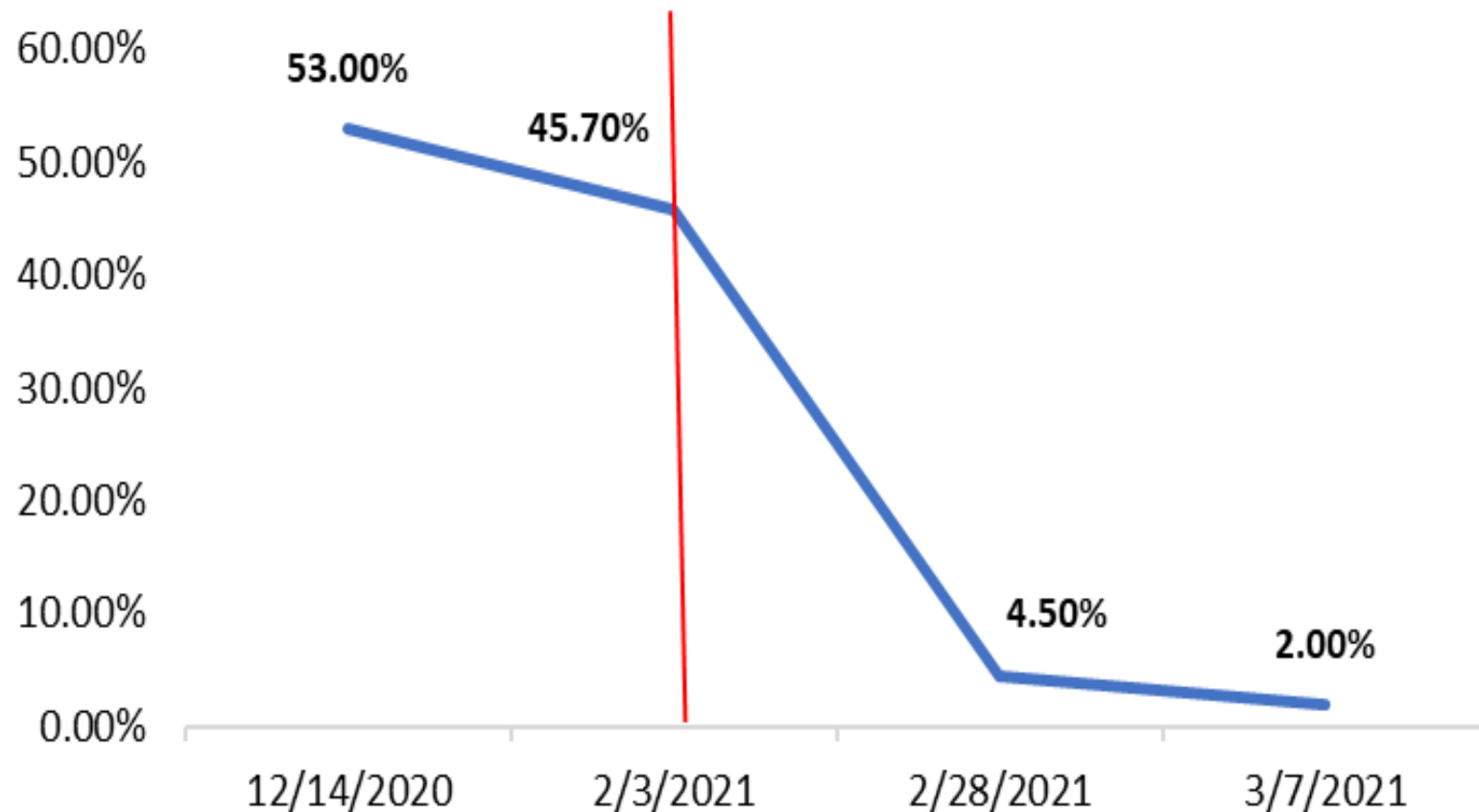




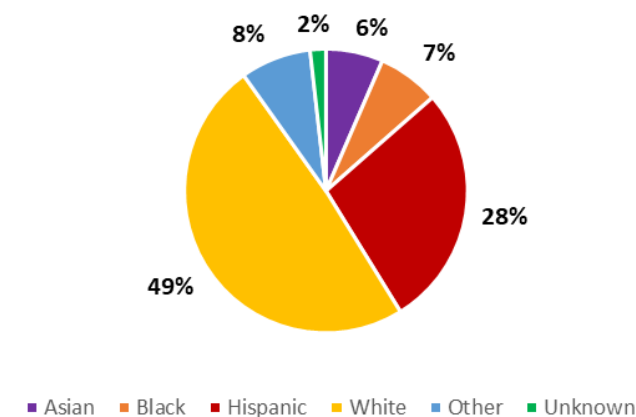


Improved Race/Ethnicity Reporting

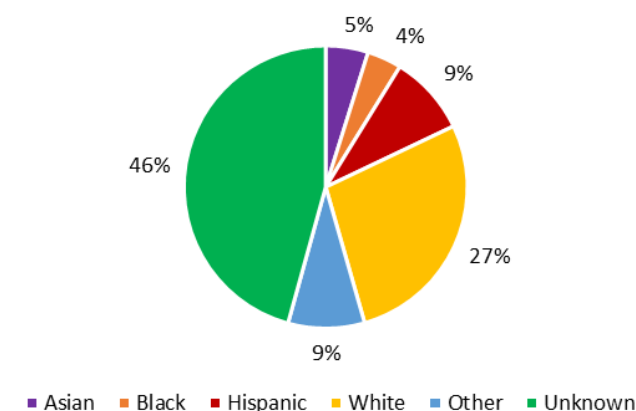
Proportion of first doses reported administered with unknown race/ethnicity



2/4 - 3/7 First Doses Reported Administered by Race/Ethnicity



12/14 - 2/3 First Doses Reported Administered by Race/Ethnicity



Therapeutics Research

Updated Food and Drug Administration Guidelines for Certain Monoclonal Antibodies



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Monoclonal Antibodies Overview

- FDA issued Emergency Use Authorizations for three COVID -19 Monoclonal Antibody regimens
- Products intended for Outpatients with:
 - Mild to moderate COVID-19
 - High risk for progressing to severe disease and/or hospitalizations
- Federal government purchased doses of both monoclonal antibody regimens and is providing free of charge to qualified facilities
 - Previously, state health departments (DSHS) directed allocation process
 - In February 2021, allocation process shifted to direct ordering by facilities to the product distributor
 - If supplies run scarce, process will revert to state-directed allocation

Monoclonal Antibodies EUAs

- **November 2020:** Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issues Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA):
 - **Products:** bamlanivimab (Eli Lilly), casirivimab/imdevimab (Regeneron)
 - **Emergency Use Authorization:** based on phase 1 and 2 clinical trial data
 - **National Institutes of Health Guidelines:** insufficient data to recommend for or against the use of these products for their intended purposes under the EUA
- **February 2021:** FDA issues new Emergency Use Authorization for monoclonal antibodies
 - **Products:** bamlanivimab/etesevimab (Eli Lilly)
 - **Emergency Use Authorization:** based on phase 3 clinical trial data – which includes more robust analysis, including hospitalizations and deaths
 - **National Institutes of Health Guidelines:** recommends use of this regimen for outpatient treatment for mild/moderate COVID-19 in outpatients that meet Emergency Use Authorization criteria

Thank you



Presentation to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner

Imelda Garcia, Associate Commissioner