COVID-19 Update

January 26, 2021

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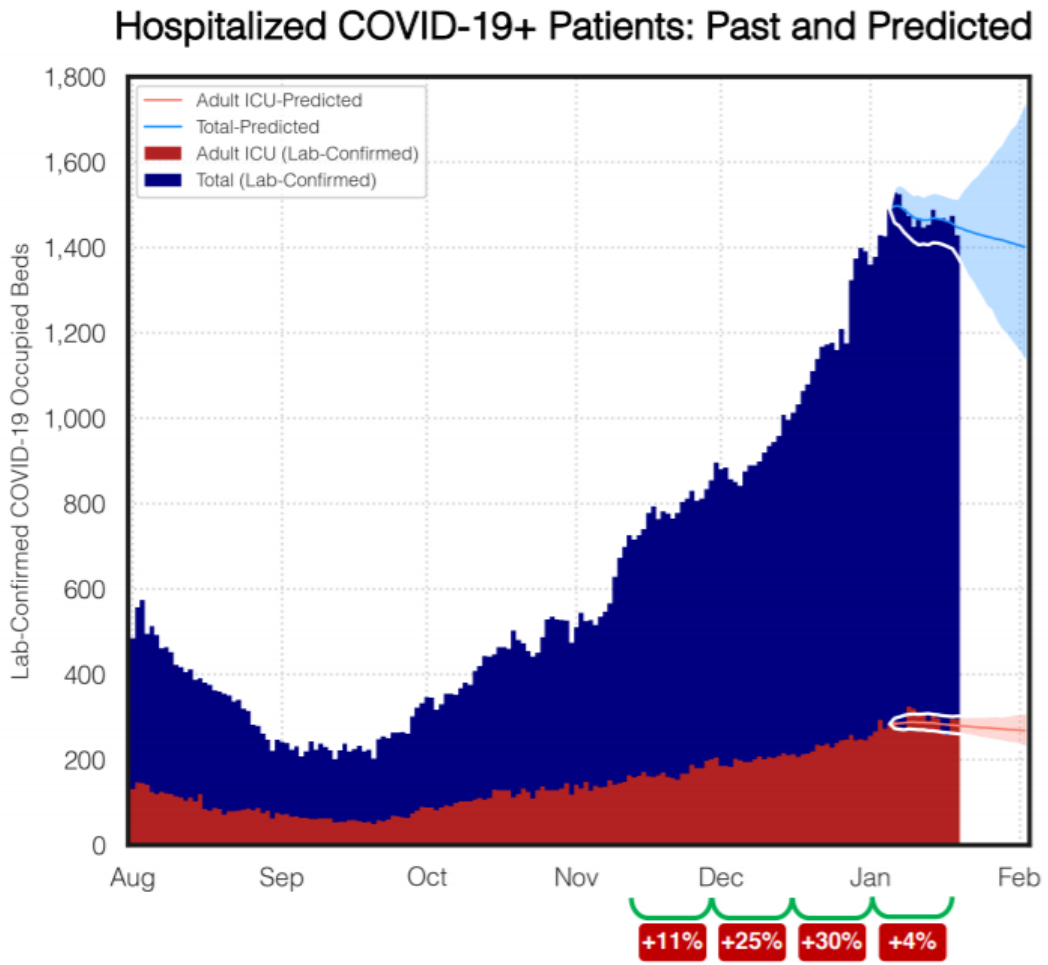
Tarrant County COVID-19 Statistics

Metric	Last Council Presentation (01/12/21)	Today's Presentation	Percentage (Inc./Dec)
Total Number of Cases	176,790	207,065	**17%▲**
New Cases - 7 Day Total	16,859	19,202	**14%▲**
Deaths	1,703	2,048	**17%▲**
Global Confirmed: 99,301,242 Global Deaths: 2,131,532 *Source: John's Hopkins University (1/25/21)*		U.S. Confirmed: 25,137,632 U.S. Deaths: 419,263 *Source: John's Hopkins University (1/25/21)*	

Tarrant County Hospitals



Healthcare systems are reporting that the recent number of discharges are higher than admitting = less patients in hospital and more available beds.

COVID-19 Current Risk Status

Key Public Health Metrics	Are We Meeting Objective
Reproduction Number (R Naught) Less Than 1.0	**No**
Sustained or declining virus numbers over 14 days	**No**
Sufficient/available hospital beds/resources	**No**
Widely available viral testing and lab capacity	**Yes**
Effective Contact Tracing to contain viral spread	**No**
Available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	**Yes**
COVID-19 Vaccines	**Yes: Phase 1A**

Vaccine Eligibility – Tier System

Phase 1A First Tier

- **Paid and unpaid workers in hospital settings working directly with patients** who are positive or at high risk for COVID-19. Such as but not limited to:
  - Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.)
  - Additional clinical staff providing supporting laboratory, pharmacy, diagnostic and/or rehabilitation services
  - Others having direct contact with patients or infectious materials
- **Long-term care staff working directly with vulnerable residents**. Includes:
  - Direct care providers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and state supported living centers
  - Physicians, nurses, personal care assistants, custodial, food service staff
- **EMS providers who engage in 9-1-1 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**

Vaccine Eligibility – Tier System

Phase 1A Second Tier

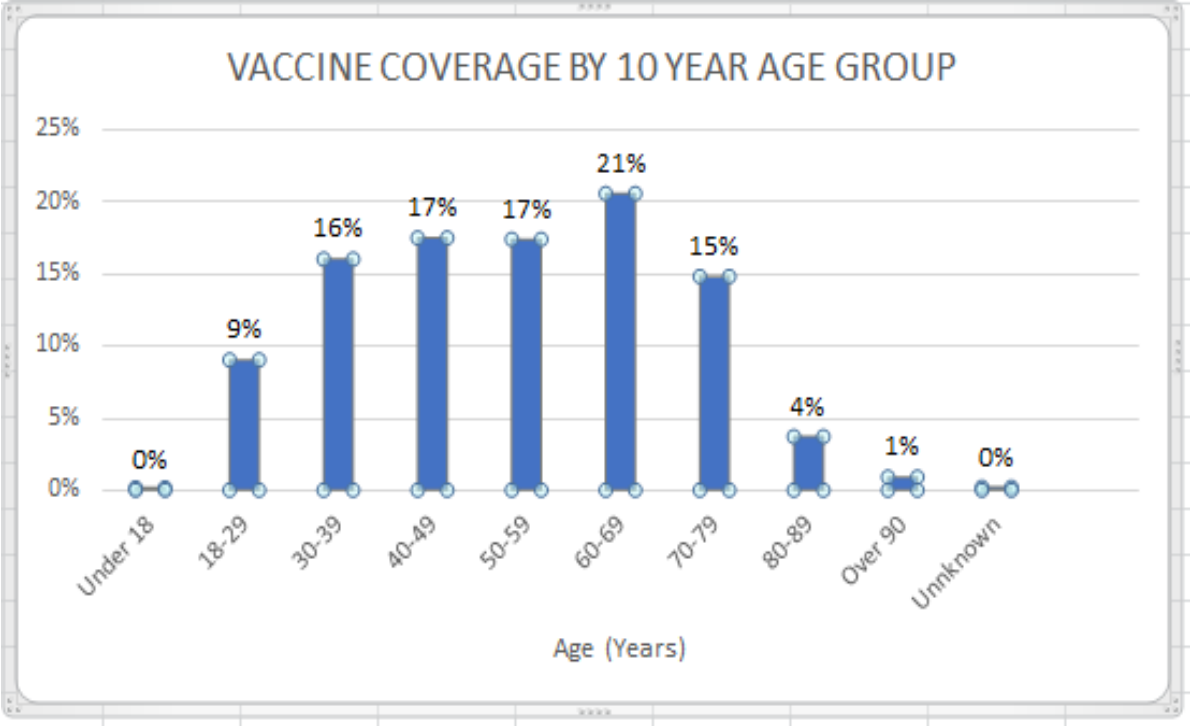
- **Staff in outpatient care settings who interact with symptomatic patients**. Such as but not limited to:
  - Physicians, nurses, and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.)
  - Clinical staff providing diagnostic, laboratory, and/or rehabilitation services
  - Non-9-1-1 transport for routine care
  - Healthcare workers in corrections and detention facilities
- **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 individuals who may have COVID
- **Public health and emergency response staff** directly involved in administration of COVID testing and vaccinations
- **Last responders** who provide mortuary or death services to decedents with COVID-19. Includes:
  - Embalmers and funeral home workers who have direct contact with decedents
  - Medical examiners and other medical certifiers who have direct contact with decedents
- **School nurses** who provide health care to students and teachers

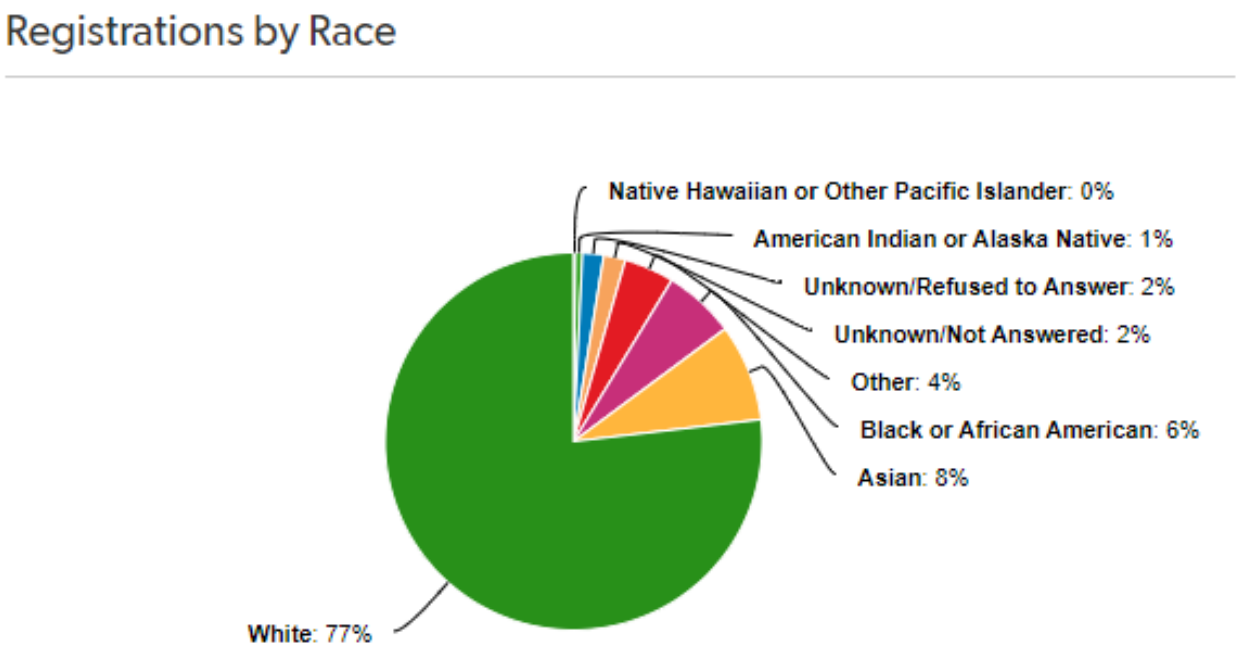
Vaccine Eligibility – Tier System

Phase 1B

- **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, such as but not limited to:
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
  - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
  - Solid organ transplantation
  - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m2 or higher)
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

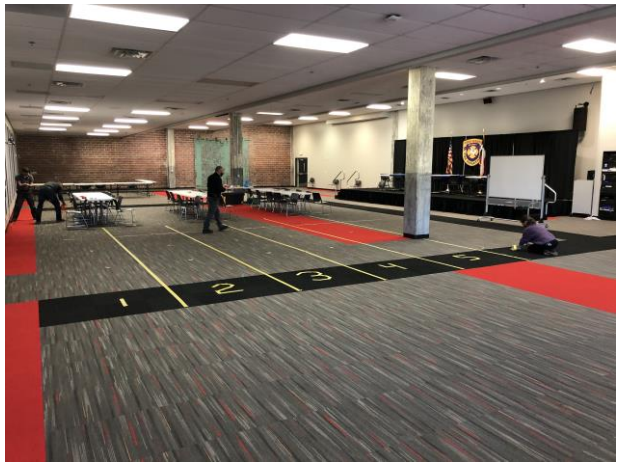
Tarrant County Vaccine and Registration Update

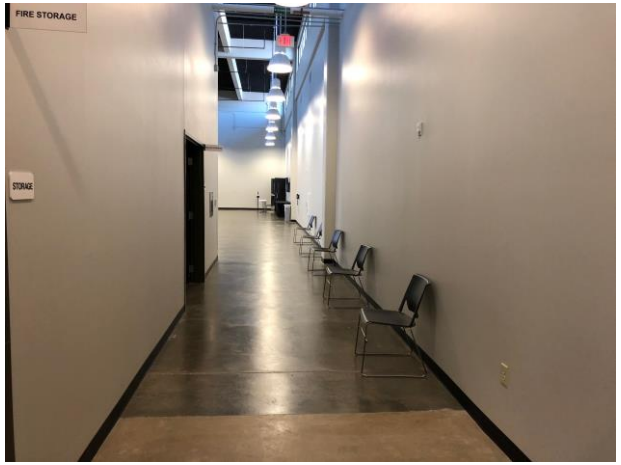




Vaccine Update

- **Tarrant County/City of Fort Worth have been receiving recognition for coordinating vaccination efforts** and expediting the dispensing of vaccines
  - Single registration system (best practice)
  - TCPH scheduling appointments with various providers, including Texas Health Resources
- **Vaccine supply is being exhausted each week**
- Capacity exceeds supply with **additional site locations being developed in preparation for more supply** in the coming months
- 500+ vaccines dispensed daily at Bob Bolen (closed POD)
- 3000+ vaccines dispensed daily at Hurst and Resource Connection (combined)
- 63,000 doses administered between TCPH and Arlington sites





Medstar & Other Agency Partnerships

- **MedStar**
  - Partnership with FWFD for **trial "mobile" vaccine program** similar to the remote testing program
  - Medstar and FWFD delivered vaccines to approximately 40 citizens last week at Fire Station 3 (Stop Six area)
  - **Looking to expand to various areas of the City depending on Medstar's vaccine availability**
- **Denton County Public Health**
  - Exploring TMS, Alliance Airport and other locations for a large scale drive through vaccination project
- **Private Contractors**
  - Turnkey solutions for walkup and drive through operations throughout the city
- **Partnership Development**
  - Working on plan to implement a pilot drive through vaccinations at Farrington Field

Key White House Vaccination Objectives

- Decision making is driven by **science and equity**
- Establish a COVID-19 **National Response Structure**
- **Build clear channels of communication** with state and local leaders
- Conduct regular **expert-led and science based public briefings**
- Ensure **high-quality COVID-19 data is available**
- **Fill urgent gaps to spur vaccination production**
- **Defense Production Act – Increase FEMA support and establish effective supply line development and distribution**
- Provide more **support for state and local community vaccination clinics**

Monoclonal Antibody Treatments

- JEOC/FWFD continue to work with the Texas Department of Emergency Management to **add two public facing sites** to supplement hospitals and healthcare systems.
- Area hospitals are reporting an **uptick in supply and supply chain predictability**, e.g., additional supplies can be ordered and arrive in a reasonable amount of time.
- **FWFD continues to provide treatments for area first-responders and essential personnel**.
- **Pre-qualified conditions required**, which include:
  - COVID-positive fewer than 10 days
  - 65 years or older
  - Any of the following: chronic kidney disease, diabetes, immunosuppressed, BMI at or above 35
  - 55 years or older and any of the following: cardiovascular disease, hypertension, COPD/other chronic respiratory disease.
- Two-hour process with tremendous results: **IV infusion (1 hour)** and **observation (1 hour)**

Vaccine Education

- ACM Valerie Washington is leading an effort to coordinate public education, messaging and outreach with Tarrant County Public Health
- As more vaccine become available, more targeted messaging and outreach will occur.
- **Current focus is 65 and older and under 65 with high risk medical conditions.**
- Dispelling Mis-Information:
  - **Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe because it was developed so quickly.
  - **Myth:** You can get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
  - **Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine includes a tracking device.
  - **Myth:** I'm not at risk for severe complications of COVID-19 so I don't need the vaccine.
  - **Myth:** I've already been diagnosed with COVID-19, so I don't need to receive the vaccine.
  - **Myth:** Once I receive the COVID-19 vaccine, I no longer need to wear a mask.

Thank you and please remember to keep wearing your masks and practicing social distancing!

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