

ERIC JOHNSON
Mayor of Dallas



January 11, 2021

Chief W. Nim Kidd
Texas Division of Emergency Management
P.O. Box 15467
Austin, Texas 78761

Sent via email: nim.kidd@tdem.texas.gov

Dear Chief Kidd:

The City of Dallas recently completed a State of Texas survey of COVID-19 vaccine providers. In our answers, you will see that we are capable of handling a direct allocation of vaccines for the public and can store up to 10,000 doses a week.

We continue to stand ready to expand our partnership with the State of Texas, and I am hereby requesting that the City of Dallas receive a direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccines, which we can administer to our residents.

We recently provided the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to more than 2,000 first responders with the allotment that the State of Texas provided in late December to the City of Dallas. The process was fast and efficient, and it can serve as an example of the City of Dallas' ability to provide thousands of vaccinations each week to our residents.

The vaccine rollout is critically important to our city, and we are committed to vaccinating as many people as possible. In partnership with Dallas County, we began helping to distribute vaccines Monday at a mega-site at Fair Park, and we have pushed strong public messaging about the safety and efficacy of these immunizations.

The urgency is palpable. Dallas is the largest city in the state's largest metropolitan area, and we have seen a significant demand for COVID-19 vaccines in our region. More than 140,000 people have registered for the vaccine through Dallas County. In addition, as the vaccine rollout continues in the weeks and months ahead, we must also contend with vaccine hesitancy in some communities, especially among African Americans. I believe we can overcome this distrust with a concerted effort to make these safe and effective vaccines readily available in underserved communities, particularly in southern Dallas, that have been hit hardest by the pandemic.

While Dallas County is our publicly contracted public health provider, the City of Dallas is equipped to help, as we have with COVID-19 testing sites. We have multiple viable public locations at which our residents could receive vaccinations, and we are prepared to do what is necessary to vaccinate as many people as we can. We have the will, if you provide us with the way.

I also would like to tell you that I am truly grateful for your continued partnership as we have responded to this global pandemic at the state and local levels. Now, we are excited to help your efforts to save lives, recover economically, and end this pandemic by quickly distributing COVID-19 vaccines as possible.

Thank you again. I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Johnson
Mayor of Dallas