




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Stephanie Hayden- Howard, Director 

DATE: April 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20210325-066 – Staff Response Austin Public Health

On March 25, 2021, Council approved resolution 20210325-066, a resolution directing the City Manager to address the continued impact of COVID-19 by encouraging employers to create programs that will increase access to COVID-19 vaccines by their employees, identifying funding to prioritize mobile testing and vaccination programs, increasing access to food, continuing support for small businesses, and developing mental health services. The response to this resolution is a collaboration of multiple City Departments. On April 7, 2021, the Economic Recovery Officer provided an update to Council on the City of Austin's Economic Recovery Strike Team efforts. Additionally, the Budget Office, Office of Sustainability, Economic Development Department and Austin Public Health staff have been working closely to respond to the various components of this resolution.

This memorandum serves as a high-level update on Austin Public Health's efforts to date. City staff anticipates providing Council a *comprehensive* update for this resolution as soon as the information is available. This update will be included in staff's response to resolution 20210325-111.

COVID-19 vaccines

Since mid- January, Austin Public Health (APH) has provided COVID-19 vaccines, following the state's eligibility guidelines at no cost. APH is a state designated vaccine HUB provider which requires that all state residents are eligible to receive vaccine from any of the APH HUB locations. APH has launched multiple mass vaccine locations across the city and county including walk up and drive thru options. One mass vaccine location can service up to 3500 per day. Additionally, APH has built mass vaccine capacity to support up to 6000 vaccines per day. APH has implemented specific efforts to support first responders, teachers, other school personnel, early child care staff, Capital Metro bus drivers, construction workers, and populations that are not able to access vaccine. APH has focused clinics for hard to reach populations in coordination with faith-based partners, older adult advocacy group. APH also utilized APH's Refugee Big Shots vaccine clinics to extend appointments to APH safety net patient populations. Additionally, APH has developed mobile strike teams currently focused on vaccinating older adults, people with disabilities and home bound residents.



Mobile Vaccine Program (MVP)

The Mobile Vaccine Program (MVP) began operating early February 2021. Since the inception of this program, APH has been providing vaccines to seniors, people with disabilities and homebound clients. APH is now able to provide vaccines to the entire household. APH is in the process of pivoting operations to focus our vaccine efforts more on neighborhoods, smaller sites and working closely with grassroots organizations. We are identifying several apartment locations including affordable units and locations which a higher concentration of people with low income people of color reside. Over the past several months we have piloted many smaller community focused events to increase vaccine distribution across the community. APH is working closely with grass roots organizations and local community partners to support our small businesses. Over the weekend, APH partnered with the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM) to vaccinate our local musicians. APH continues to expand this program and look for ways to add more partnerships.

Ongoing Vaccine Strategy

APH is one of over 350 providers for our area. With the access to more vaccine, APH can transition back to a safety net status and focus on the underserved and uninsured community. APH is committed to meeting people where they are to provide them a COVID-19 vaccine. APH will utilize the federal funding from FEMA and state funding for on-going vaccine efforts.

The safety and health of our community and most vulnerable populations remains a top priority for Austin Public Health. As we shift to this new distribution strategy, our focus, hours, and locations will change as well. Please feel free to contact me at (512) 972-5010 or Stephanie.Hayden-Howard@austintexas.gov should you have questions.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager
Shannon Jones, Interim Assistant City Manager
Lucia Athens, Office of Sustainability
Kerri Lang, Interim Budget Officer
Veronica Briseno, Chief Economic Recovery Officer