

DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS

VACCINE PROJECT

Helping persons with
disabilities gain access to
COVID-19 vaccinations

PROJECT SCOPE:

- A partnership between ACL and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase vaccine access for people with disabilities and older adults.
- Many persons with disabilities have pre-existing conditions that are associated with severe illness due to COVID-19.
- Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) has received ACL funding to help persons with disabilities to overcome these barriers and access the COVID-19 vaccination.

BARRIERS TO VACCINATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

- Persons who are homebound
- Persons lacking transportation
- Persons living in remote locations
- Persons who have difficulty overcoming the technology divide
- Persons needing accommodations such as an attendant to escort them to a vaccination site
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Vaccine apathy

DRTX VACCINATION PROJECT

- Disability Rights Texas provides a direct line to vaccinations through DSHS and TDEM.
- DRTx can arrange for vaccinations of individuals with disabilities throughout the State of Texas.
- DRTx can arrange for “pop-up” vaccination clinics (minimum of 5 persons needed to qualify for a clinic).
- DRTx also performs outreach through, and to our network of 20 plus TPIA participating organizations to raise vaccine awareness.

BACKGROUND: HOW MANY VACCINES HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED IN TEXAS?

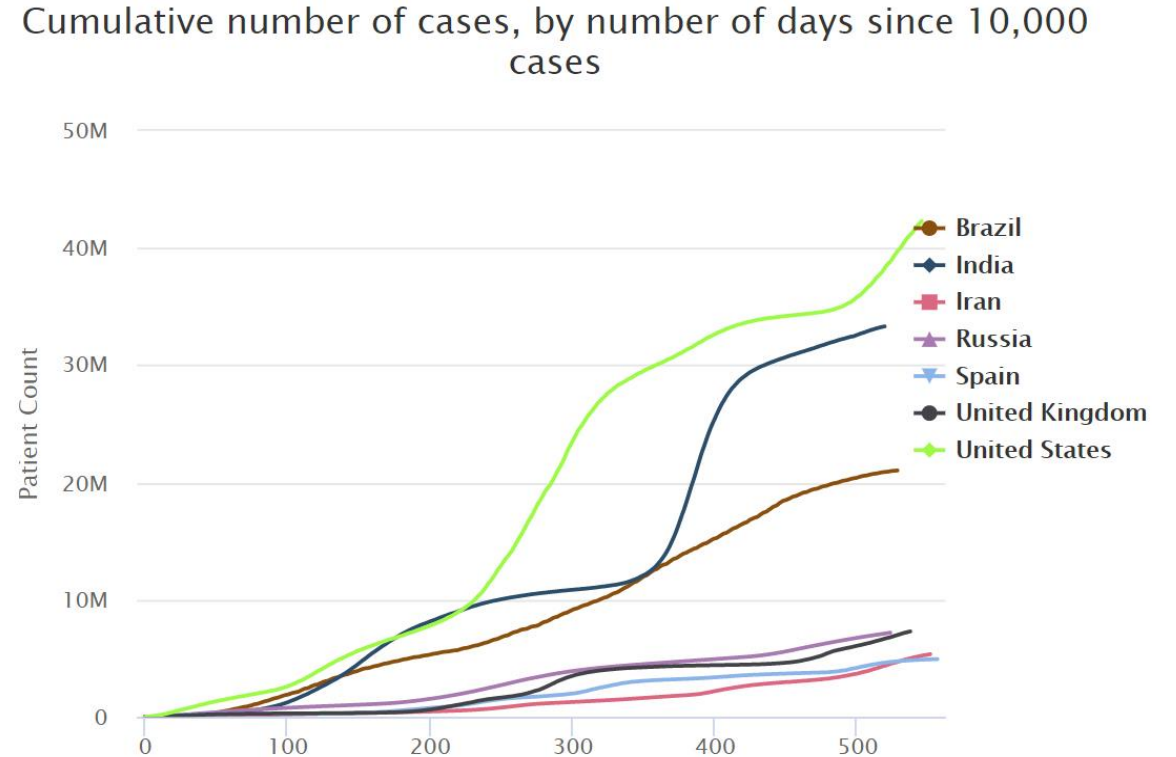
- Texas has received **40,417,915** doses so far, administering 77% or **31,172,538** of the doses.
- Per the
- CDC, as of September 13th, 2021, **16,940,448** people or 58% of the state has **received at least one dose**.
- Overall, **14,246,449** people or 49% of Texas's population has **been fully vaccinated**.

DELTA VARIANT:

- Delta is currently the predominant variant of the virus in the United States.
- **The Delta variant is far more contagious:** The Delta variant is highly contagious, more than 2x as contagious as previous variants.
- **Unvaccinated people remain the greatest concern:** The greatest risk of transmission is among unvaccinated people who are much more likely to get infected, and therefore transmit the virus.

U.S. COVID-19 NUMBERS:

- **1 in 500** Americans have died of COVID since the 1st US infection was detected
- As of 9/28/21, U.S. has **43,615,631** confirmed cases
- U.S. has **700,294** deaths



VACCINES ARE OUR BEST DEFENSE.

- Vaccines in the US are highly effective, including against the Delta variant.
- The COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant. But they are not 100% *effective*, and some fully vaccinated people will become infected (called a breakthrough infection) and experience illness. For all people, the vaccine provides the best protection against serious illness and death.

VACCINATION PREVENTS DEATH AND HOSPITALIZATION.

- Per the CDC,* more than 166 million people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- As of 8/2/21, U.S had 612,982 deaths from COVID -19. According to the CDC, **1,507 people (about 0.002%) of those fully vaccinated had died from COVID-19**. The vast majority, 74% of the more severe breakthrough cases were people 65 years or older or had other underlying conditions.
- Meanwhile, **7,101 people of those fully vaccinated people (about 0.005%) had been hospitalized from COVID-19**.

*CDC Study - Data 8/2/21

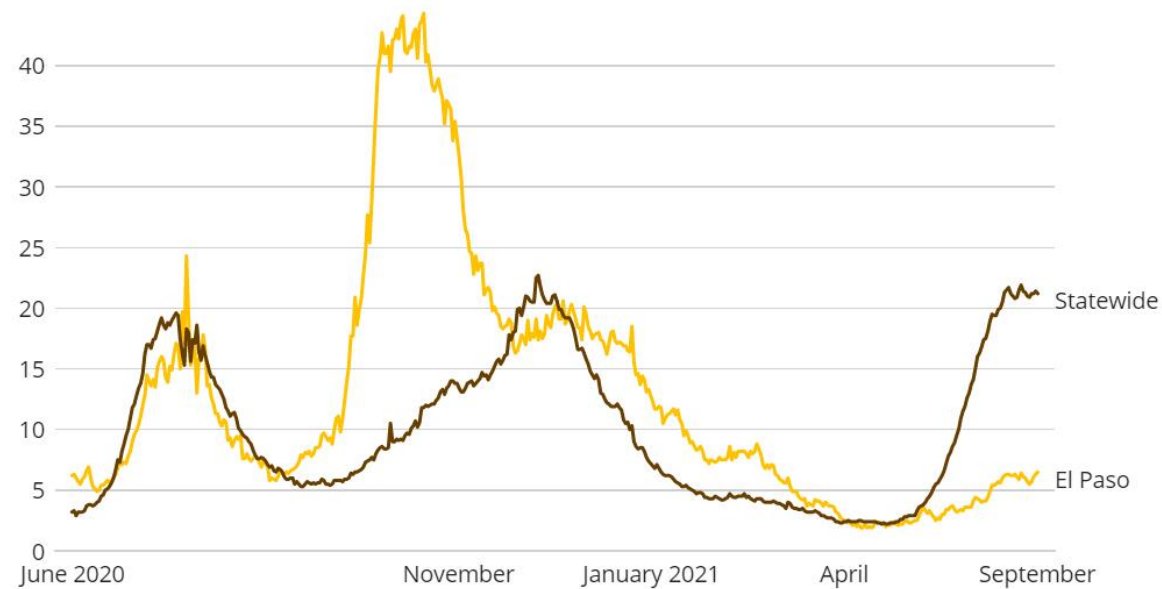
EL PASO CASE STUDY:

- While Delta raged through most of the state's 254 counties in July and August, breaking records and overwhelming hospitals in both small rural and large metropolitan areas, **the El Paso area — with one of the highest vaccination rates in the state** — has done much better than other regions with the most recent surge.
- El Paso-area hospitals, which serve nearly a million West Texas residents, haven't come close to their previous highs.

EL PASO HOSPITALIZATIONS

When COVID-19 hospitalizations peaked in El Paso and Texas

Percent of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients



Source: [Department of State Health Services](#)

Credit: Darla Cameron

CHILDREN ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO THE DELTA VARIANT.

- As of Sept. 28, 2021, more than 43.1 million COVID-19 cases and more than 690,000 deaths have been reported, according to Johns Hopkins University. Among children, more than 5.7 million cases and at least 498 deaths have been reported as of Sept. 23, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Everyone 12 years and older is eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine but vaccination among children ages 12 to 17 is lower than in older groups, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BOOSTERS:

- The FDA has authorized a booster dose of the **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday for older Americans, healthcare workers, and others at serious risk of severe cases. People age 65 and older, as well as people 18 to 64 with underlying health conditions or jobs that increase their risk of developing severe Covid, are eligible for a third dose.
- Not to be confused with 3rd doses of Moderna or 2nd doses of Johnson and Johnson for persons who are immunocompromised. This third dose of Moderna and second dose of J&J is now considered a normal part of the series for immunocompromised patients.

TEXAS PARTNERS FOR INCLUSIVE ACCESS:

- DRTx has spearheaded the formation of a state-wide coalition of organizations branded the ***Texas Partners for Inclusive Access*** that have come together for the purpose of helping Texans with disabilities get vaccinated.
- Some of the participating organizations include DRTx, DSHS, HHSC, TCDD, FEMA, Texas A&M, University of Texas, Arc of Texas, House the Homeless, National Federation of the Blind, NAMI Texas, PACSTX, PPAT, Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, and many more.

PROJECT NUMBERS:

- **As of 9/28/21 DRTx has arranged vaccinations for 276 persons and have set up 8 vaccine clinics.**
- **We have engaged another 35,030 individuals with our outreach (i.e., in person events, webinars and social media).**
- **Additionally, we have leveraged the broader TPIA network to send out information or provide education to another 46,858 persons.**

HOW DO WE HELP?

- Disability Rights Texas has on standby “vaccine navigators” to assist persons with disabilities overcome the barriers to getting vaccinated.
- Additionally, our vaccine navigators can assist with giving information regarding vaccine availability, safety and efficacy,
- Vaccine Navigators also address any questions related to vaccine hesitancy.

HOW TO REQUEST HELP...

Call **1-800-880-8401** from 9am
to 4pm; or email
vaccine@drtx.org