



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

August 9, 2021

Texas Hospital Association  
1108 Lavaca Street, #700  
Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Medical Association  
401 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Healthcare Leaders:

It is with great urgency that I write to you today to ask for your assistance in stepping up efforts to increase vaccinations across Texas and to help inform the public about the importance of being vaccinated. While 53.5 percent of eligible Texans are fully vaccinated, there is more that must be done. As you know, the COVID-19 Delta Variant is spreading quickly among unvaccinated individuals. Each of your organizations represent a network of healthcare professionals across our state, and I am urging you to do all you can to raise awareness regarding the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccinations. As organizations on the frontline, you know more than most that every facet of our healthcare system, from the pediatrician to the emergency room nurse, has been working tirelessly to ensure their patients, no matter their age, clearly understand every step that they can personally take to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, and we appreciate the partnership. If any of your members were not previously involved in the vaccination process, we are eager to start a new partnership with them.

Additionally, I have asked that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) work with you and local leaders to make additional COVID-19 Antibody Infusion Centers available across our state. As we have seen throughout the course of the pandemic, antibody therapeutic treatments are a highly effective tool to ensure that those who are sick with COVID-19 are able to recover more quickly. I understand that many of our hospitals do not currently have the capacity to treat both those who are very ill with COVID-19 and provide antibody therapeutic treatment. In order to assist with the increased demand on the hospital system, and to ensure that no hospital bed needed to treat our state's most ill patients is taken to provide therapeutic treatment, the State of Texas is again working with local emergency management officials to open COVID-19 therapeutic infusion centers at their request.

I appreciate the continued partnership and efforts of all frontline healthcare workers across Texas. Together we will overcome this challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor