



THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE  
IRVING & GRAND PRAIRIE DELEGATION

January 21, 2021

APPROVED FOR  
DISTRIBUTION  
1/21/2021

*Jerry Meza*

**Senators:**

The Honorable  
Royce West  
District 23

Dr. John William Hellerstedt  
Commissioner  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

**Representatives:\***

The Honorable  
Jeff Cason  
District 92

The Honorable  
Chris Turner  
District 101

The Honorable  
Rafael Anchía  
District 103

The Honorable  
Jessica González  
District 104

The Honorable  
Hon. Terry Meza  
District 105

The Honorable  
Julie Johnson  
District 115

**RE: Vaccine allocations and Vaccine Hubs for Grand Prairie and Irving, Texas**

Dear Dr. Hellerstedt:

We are writing today to strongly encourage the Texas Department of State Health Services to prioritize the cities of Irving and Grand Prairie for a COVID-19 vaccine hub location in Week 7 of vaccine distribution, and to encourage the department to make additional vaccine allocations to providers and pharmacies in these two cities.

Irving and Grand Prairie are the 13th and 15th largest cities in Texas and are home to in excess of 432,000 people in Dallas and Tarrant Counties.

**The residents of Irving and Grand Prairie are, we believe, best served by placing a vaccine hub within the corporate limits of either city for Week 7 and Week 8 of vaccine distribution.**

As the members of the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate representing these two cities, we believe it is important for DSHS to keep in mind the following when addressing HUB locations in Week 7:

- The U.S. Census Bureau indicates, as of 2019, 12.2 percent of Irving's population lives at or below Federal Poverty Level.
- The Census Bureau indicates, as of 2019, 11.3 of the city of Grand Prairie's population under the age of 65 lives at or below the Federal Poverty Level.
- 20.1 percent of Grand Prairie's population under the age of 65 is uninsured.
- 21.6 percent of the population of Irving under the age of 65 is uninsured.

•52.1 percent of the population of the city of Irving is non-white/minority. 41.2 percent of the population of Grand Prairie is non-white/minority.

•9.2 percent of the population of Grand Prairie is over the age of 65. 7.5 percent of the population of Irving is over the age of 65.

•Although Irving residents have access to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System, attempting to use DART to access vaccine hub sites in Dallas could be a challenging ordeal for most residents, and result in lengthy bus rides for our most vulnerable populations. To access Fort Worth or Tarrant County hubs, Irving residents dependent on public transportation would have to use a combination of DART and the Trinity Railway Express.

•Grand Prairie residents do not have access to a mass transit system within the city limits, and therefore would not have the option of taking public transit to reach hubs in either Dallas or Tarrant Counties.

It is our hope, as the representatives of the nearly half a million Texans who live in Irving and Grand Prairie, that the Department of State Health Services will seriously consider this request.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



**Terry Meza**  
State Representative  
District 105



**Royce West**  
State Senator  
District 23



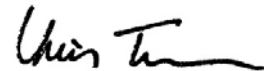
**Julie Johnson**  
State Representative  
District 115



**Rafael Anchía**  
State Representative  
District 103



**Jessica González**  
State Representative  
District 104



**Chris Turner**  
State Representative  
District 101



**Jeff Cason**  
State Representative  
District 92

\*Only delegation members signing this letter are listed on the letterhead. Signatures are affixed in the orders the respective members agreed to sign.