

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 27, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **COVID-19 Prevalence Study Update**

In August of 2020, the City of Dallas utilized Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to support the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) and Texas Health Resources (THR) on their area COVID-19 prevalence study. This study is a way to better understand how common COVID-19 is in Dallas and Tarrant County. UTSW continues to gather data from the study and expects to complete part of the study in the next couple of months. Below are a few updates related to the study.

The study began as a targeted, invitation only study known as Protocol 1. A scientific paper reporting findings from Protocol 1 is pending approval by co-authors and will be submitted to journals soon. The current COVID-19 prevalence literature from community-based random sampling is sparse and by adding the Protocol 1 paper, they will be adding scientific knowledge due to the sample representing various race and ethnicities from different socioeconomic (SES) backgrounds.

Below are interim findings of the study so far:

- It has been found that adults in low socioeconomic neighborhoods have an estimated infection rate 1.7 times greater than those residing in other neighborhoods. It was shown that infection rates for Hispanics were 5.0 and non-Hispanic blacks being 2.4 times higher than non-Hispanic whites who have an infection rate of 4.6%.
- The age range that saw the highest estimated rate of infection were adults ages 25 to 44 with an infection rate of 16.6%, which is 2.6 times more compared to those in the older age range category at 6.4%.
- When observing infection rates among those without a high school diploma verses those who are high school graduates it was shown that those who do not have a diploma have an infection rate of 33.1% compared to those with a formal education at 10.2% or lower.
- When comparing infection rates among essential workers and non-essential workers (students, unemployed, employed but non-essential and retirees), it was shown that the infection rates were 1.5 times higher for those who are considered essential workers.

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- Over 90% of participants reported wearing a mask most of the time when not at home; however, a lower proportion reported social distancing most of the time (82.9%).

UTSW and THR will continue to gather data over the next few months from the longitudinal study. In the meantime, please contact me at rocky.vaz@dallascityhall.com with any questions or comments.



Rocky Vaz
Director
Office of Emergency Management

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