

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 2, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Dashboard Updates**

On February 25, the Office of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence (DBI) briefed the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance on updates to the City of Dallas' bilingual COVID-19 dashboard. The [dashboard](#) includes pages on testing, number of cases, and anonymous demographic data on vaccine recipients including race, ethnicity, gender, age, and ZIP code.

The COVID-19 global pandemic is evolving, and the City's COVID-19 dashboard continues to evolve in response. To provide our residents with the most up-to-date and relevant information, DBI recently updated the dashboard to include state-wide data showing all the vaccinations distributed in Texas and the percentage of people aged 16 and older vaccinated by county. This important statistic will show our progress towards community immunity, which is currently estimated to be between 70 to 85 percent.¹ Dallas County currently has 15.4 percent of residents 16 years of age or older vaccinated.

As of March 20, the data source for COVID-19 cases and mortality on the dashboard is Johns Hopkins University. This change was made for several reasons: 1) Johns Hopkins University is considered the gold standard in COVID-19 cases and mortality data; 2) it eliminates the delay in reported mortalities; and 3) by reducing to fewer, more automated sources, possible errors are eliminated. Careful observers of the Dashboard will notice an increase in our current total counts of cases because the Johns Hopkins University data includes both confirmed and probable cases, whereas the dashboard previously displayed only confirmed cases. For example, in the DFW region, the case count went from 644,862 to 766,576, increasing by approximately 120,000.

In switching to the Johns Hopkins University data and implementing custom coding scripts, the DBI team has successfully automated the COVID-19 dashboard, eliminating the need for manual updates and saving 16 hours of staff time per day. This automated process represents best practices in data science, reduces chance of introducing error, and enables staff to shift focus toward analysis and new projects.

¹ <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/tag/herd-immunity/>

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For more information, please contact Dr. Brita Andercheck, Director of the Office of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence, at data@dallascityhall.com.

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