

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor  
1100 Congress Avenue  
Room 2S.1  
Austin, TX 78701

**RE: Request for Return of Full State Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines to Dallas And Tarrant Counties**

Dear Governor Abbott:

We write to you with urgency as representatives of both Dallas and Tarrant Counties on recent developments to the state-level allocation of COVID-19 vaccines to our districts. We have been informed of the recent decision to reduce state vaccine allocations in Week 11 and upcoming weeks to both Dallas and Tarrant Counties due to the introduction of two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) operated vaccine sites and their respective but separate federal allocation of shots. We are concerned that this substantial decrease in the state allocation of COVID-19 vaccines will be detrimental in our collective efforts to quickly vaccinate our most vulnerable and underserved communities.

Dallas and Tarrant Counties have worked diligently since receiving their first vaccine allocations to prioritize distribution based on the State of Texas' recommendations. As part of the agreement with the federal government, the FEMA sites will only provide vaccinations to individuals who specifically live in the most vulnerable zip codes determined by a vulnerability index to ensure equity. However, Dallas and Tarrant Counties must also continue to serve residents outside these zip codes. If the State of Texas reduces the number of vaccines to Dallas and Tarrant Counties in these upcoming weeks, it would greatly disadvantage those seeking a vaccine who reside outside the targeted zip codes and who would not qualify to be vaccinated at the FEMA sites.

The State's decision to reduce Dallas and Tarrant Counties' vaccine allocation will affect so many in our communities who would have qualified under both counties' vaccination programs. Vaccine distribution to teachers, first responders and others who do not live in those prioritized zip codes will be delayed for at least three weeks because of the State's decision.

Therefore, we write to you in support of the following requests, so that we may address this situation in the most transparent and equitable manner.

- We request full transparency of the formula used to make the state-level allocations for the COVID-19 vaccine distribution.
- We ask that the Department of State Health Services restore the full allocation of vaccines to Dallas and Tarrant County for the Week 12 allocation.

- We ask that the Department of State Health Services initiate an immediate effort to make up the number of shots originally reduced from Dallas and Tarrant County in the Week 11 allocation.
- We ask that the Department of State Health Services maintain consistency in increasing the forthcoming state allocations to Dallas and Tarrant Counties in proportion to increases the state's overall vaccine allotment from the federal government.

The selection by FEMA of both Dallas and Arlington as locations for federally supported vaccine sites underscores the need to continue vaccinating as many people in our combined metropolitan area as quickly as possible. Decreasing our state vaccine allocation, even temporarily, will do great harm to our communities during this public health crisis.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Zahraa Saheb with Congressman Marc Veasey ([Zahraa.Saheb@mail.house.gov](mailto:Zahraa.Saheb@mail.house.gov)), Tonia Wu with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson ([Tonia.Wu@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tonia.Wu@mail.house.gov)), or Abbie Killian with Congressman Colin Allred ([Abbie.Killian@mail.house.gov](mailto:Abbie.Killian@mail.house.gov)).

We appreciate your attention to these urgent concerns and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Colin Allred  
Member of Congress