



COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS
HARRIS COUNTY
PRECINCT ONE

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES

Dear Friends,

COVID-19 vaccine distribution has officially begun in Harris County, and it could not have come at a more urgent time. While we are working as hard as we can to distribute the doses that we have as quickly as possible in accordance with CDC guidance, **we need you to continue doing your part to slow the spread of the virus.**

Harris County has seen an increase in cases, hospitalizations and sadly fatalities over the past few weeks. Across the country, we have averaged 200,000 new cases per day. And these cases and fatalities are hitting communities of color the hardest. Black and Hispanic people are almost three times as likely to die from this virus as their white counterparts.

We urge you to remain socially distant, and continue wearing your masks when you are in public spaces.

We know everyone is curious to know when they will be able to receive the vaccine, and we will do our best to provide you with the most up-to-date information when we get it. For now, we know that the vaccine will be available to the general public when supply substantially increases in 2021, possibly in late spring. Until then, priority will be

given to health care providers, essential workers, and vulnerable populations.

Harris County Public Health has a helpful [website](#) answering Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 vaccines. You can also contact covidliaison@hctx.net if you have any specific questions.



Now, I want to acknowledge the skepticism that communities of color may be feeling about the vaccine. This skepticism is not unwarranted, because in our country not even the medical field has been exempted

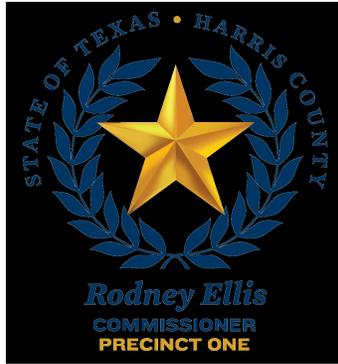
from the trappings of institutional racism, and the American medical establishment has often failed communities of color.

But, as difficult as it may be, I am asking everyone to **trust this life-saving vaccine and to take it when you can.** I received a first dose late last week, along with colleagues who represent some of the hardest hit communities in our county.

This vaccine will protect you and your loved ones from this deadly virus, and will allow our community to truly recover and rebuild from this pandemic. Once our community is truly protected from the threat of COVID-19, life can begin to return to normal, and we can move on from these tough times together.

Sincerely,

Rodney Ellis



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