

TMC Members voice strong support for vaccines, reinforce continued importance of social measures to prevent spread of COVID-19

HOUSTON, TX – (December 22, 2020) — Earlier this week, several Texas Medical Center (TMC) Hospitals received the first shipments of COVID-19 vaccines. Our clinical leadership and research teams have been following the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review and approval process and we are confident that the vaccine is safe and effective. While this first phase focuses on front line healthcare workers, we are eager for additional shipments of approved vaccine and look forward to providing the vaccine to vulnerable populations and the full public once supply allows.

To date, approximately 36,686 shots have been administered to TMC employees.

As TMC hospitals receive early shipments of both the Pfizer vaccine and any future vaccines, we have both appropriate low-temperature storage space and detailed plans for the timely distribution to the healthcare community and to the general public. Collectively, we urge the public to get vaccinated once the vaccine is available for widespread use.

However, we are now experiencing the largest growth of the COVID-19 virus in our community. Our collective voice on this issue is clear and emphatic: even with the hope of vaccines on the horizon, personal choice remains the most important public health tool we have.

Over the next several months, we must all avoid group gatherings that serve as the largest accelerant to spread the virus within our community. Masking, physical distancing, hand washing, and staying home when ill are all critical steps that we can all continue to take. It will likely take several months to achieve widespread vaccination and the benefits of herd immunity. Until then, we must remain vigilant – to protect ourselves and our most vulnerable community members and maintain our healthcare infrastructure's stability.

We thank the public for their support for both continued public health measures and widespread vaccination.