



# **COVID-19 Response + Recovery Cross- Functional Team Update**

**5.24.2021**

# Table of Contents

---

- 1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)**
- 2. City Attorney Overview (Karla Nieman)**
  - a) State Disaster Declarations**
  - b) Emergency Ordinances**
  - c) City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support**
  - d) Legal Monitoring**
- 3. CFT Operations (Chief Mario D'Agostino)**
- 4. Team Lead Reports:**
  - 1. Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)**
  - 2. Vaccination Update (Angela Mora)**
  - 3. Financial Focus (Robert Cortinas)**
- 5. City Manager Wrap Up (Tommy Gonzalez)**



# 1. Overview

Tommy Gonzalez



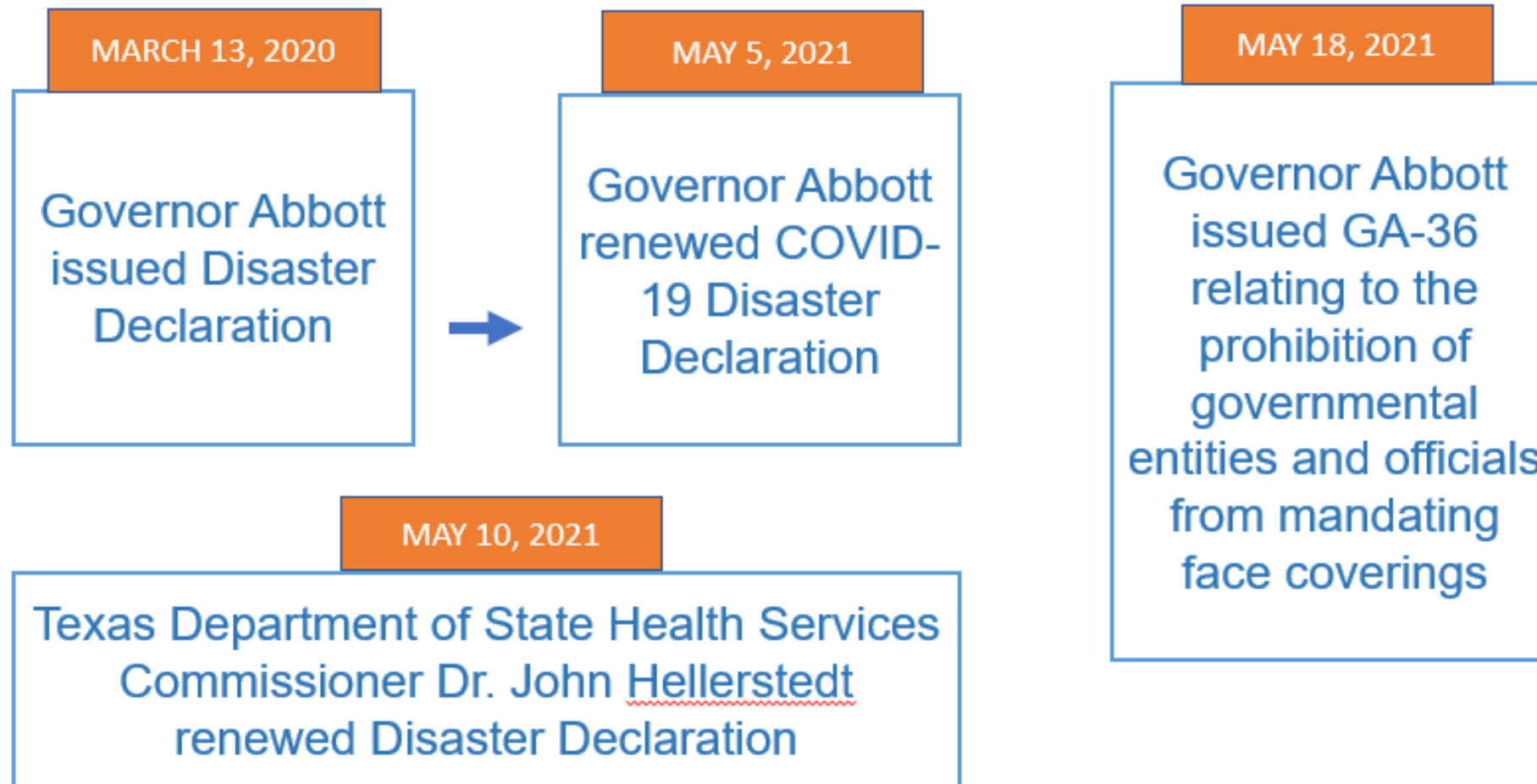
## 2. CAO Overview

- a) State Disaster Declarations
- b) Emergency Ordinances
- c) City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support
- d) Legal Monitoring

Karla Nieman



# State Disaster Declarations



# Emergency Ordinances

Ordinance	Adoption Date	Most Recent Re-enactment	Expires
<b>Disaster Declaration</b> Ord. No. 019035	3/17/2020	4/26/2021	5/26/2021
<b>Emergency Measures</b> Ord. No. 019036	3/17/2020	4/26/2021	5/26/2021
<b>Public Right of Way</b> Ord. No. 019091	8/31/2020	4/26/2021	5/26/2021

# City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support

- ❖ LHA Orders
  - ❖ Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities



# Legal Monitoring

- ❖ Office of Court Administration Update

- ❖ Courts will continue to require masks

- ❖ State of Texas vs. City of Austin & Travis County – Litigation – mask mandate

- ❖ March 26, 2021 – Judge Livingston ruled in favor of Defendants

- ❖ March 30, 2021 – TX AG filed a Notice of Appeal with the Texas 3<sup>rd</sup> Court of Appeals

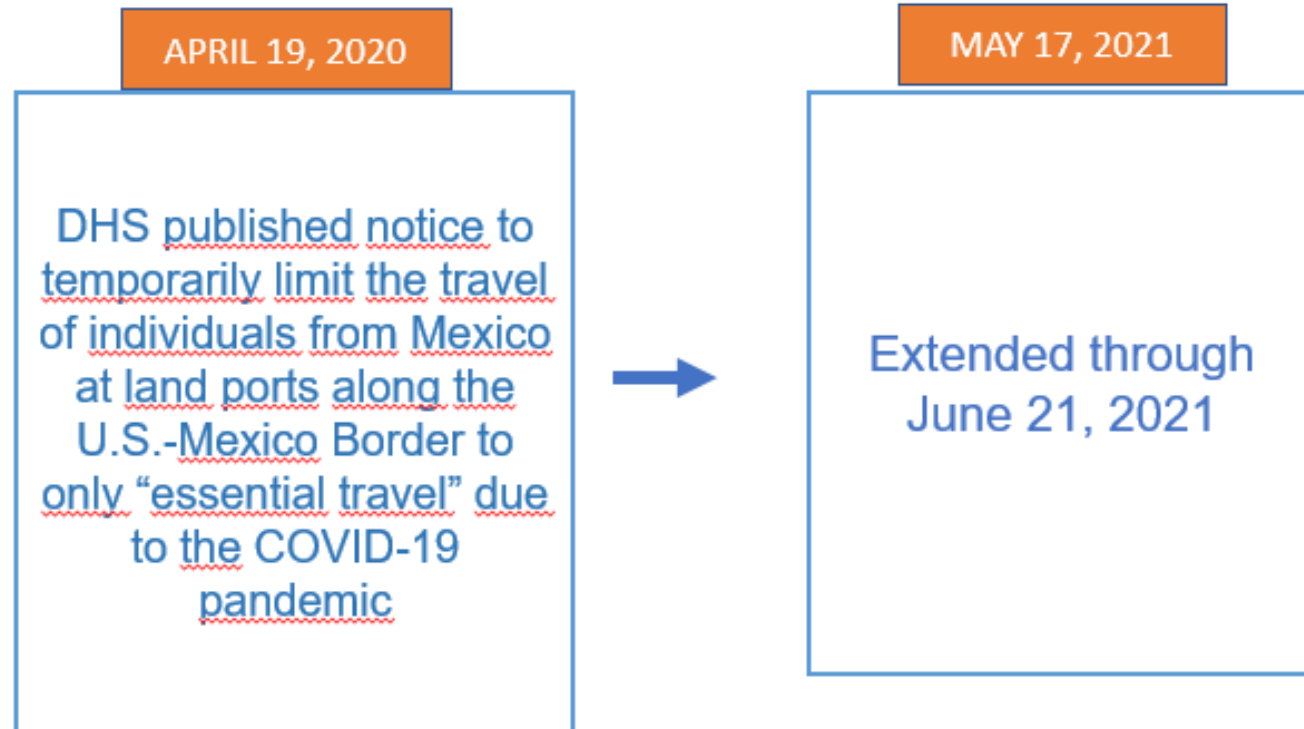
- ❖ Cause No. 03-21-00144-CV

- ❖ May 6, 2021 – Appellant's Brief filed – oral argument not requested

- ❖ May 26, 2021 – Appellees' Brief is due



# Legal Monitoring – Land Ports of Entry Travel Restrictions



Restricted Non-essential travel—individuals traveling for tourism purposes (e.g. sightseeing, recreation, gambling, or attending cultural events)



# 3. CFT Operations

Chief Mario D'Agostino

# 4. Team Lead Reports





# 1. Health Focus

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D.

# COVID-19 Summary

- ❖ A sustained decline is observed on Pandemic's three of the main indicators over the last 3 months
- ❖ Positivity rate has dropped **70%** (6.74% - 2.02%)
- ❖ New Cases 7-day Avg observed a difference of **54.6%** (16.3 cases / 100,000 - 7.4 cases / 100,000)
- ❖ Hospitalizations 7-day Avg has changed **74.6%** (359 – 91)
- ❖ Hospitalizations TSA I is 4.3%



# Masks are Strongly Recommended



- Masks are proven to be effective at preventing spread of virus
- Protect as source control
- Easy to wear and Effective Protection
- Protects against many other diseases, 96% reduction in flu cases in 2020
- A community-wide effort is needed to be most effective

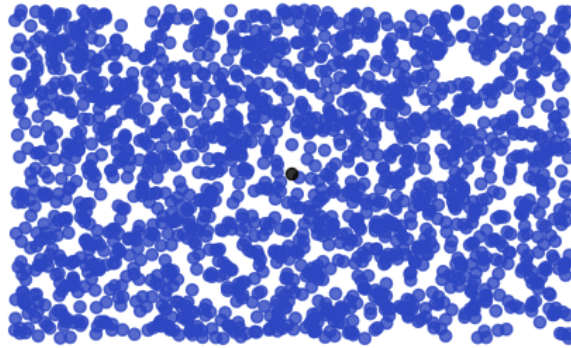


- CDC updated guidance encourages people to get vaccinated
- Herd Immunity is within reach
- Vaccine effective at preventing hospitalization and death
- When fully vaccinated, people may do many activities

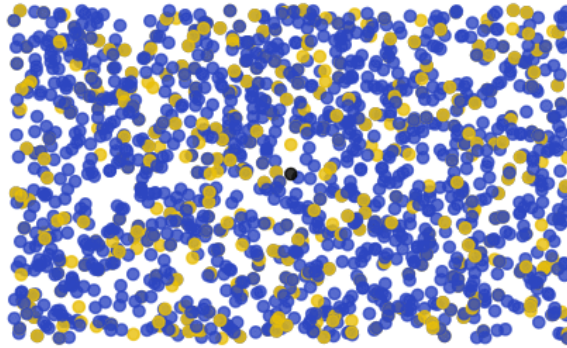


# Herd Immunity: How It Works

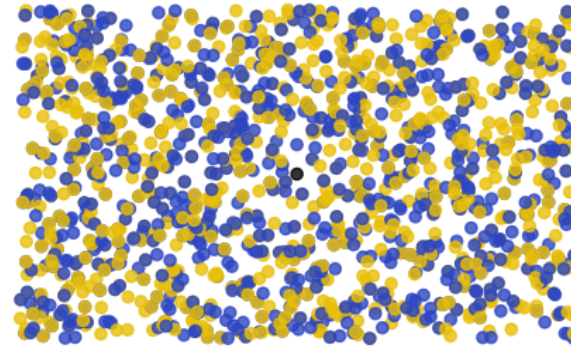
Percent Vaccinated: 0%



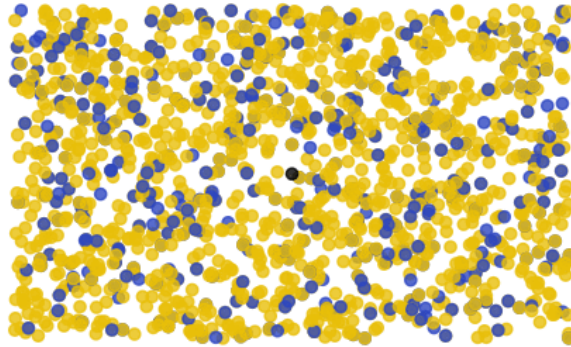
Percent Vaccinated: 25%



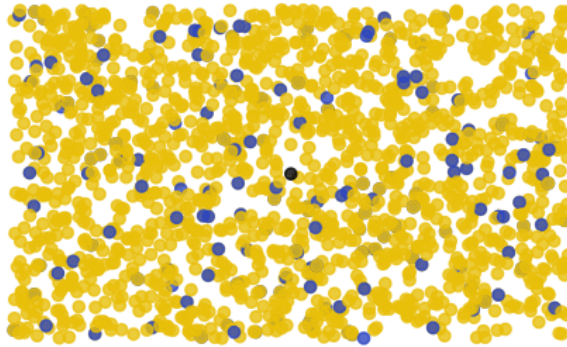
Percent Vaccinated: 50%



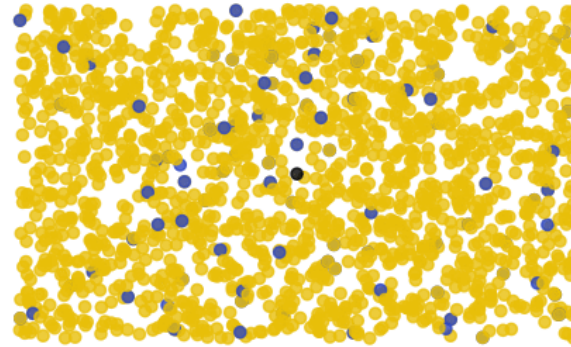
Percent Vaccinated: 75%



Percent Vaccinated: 90%

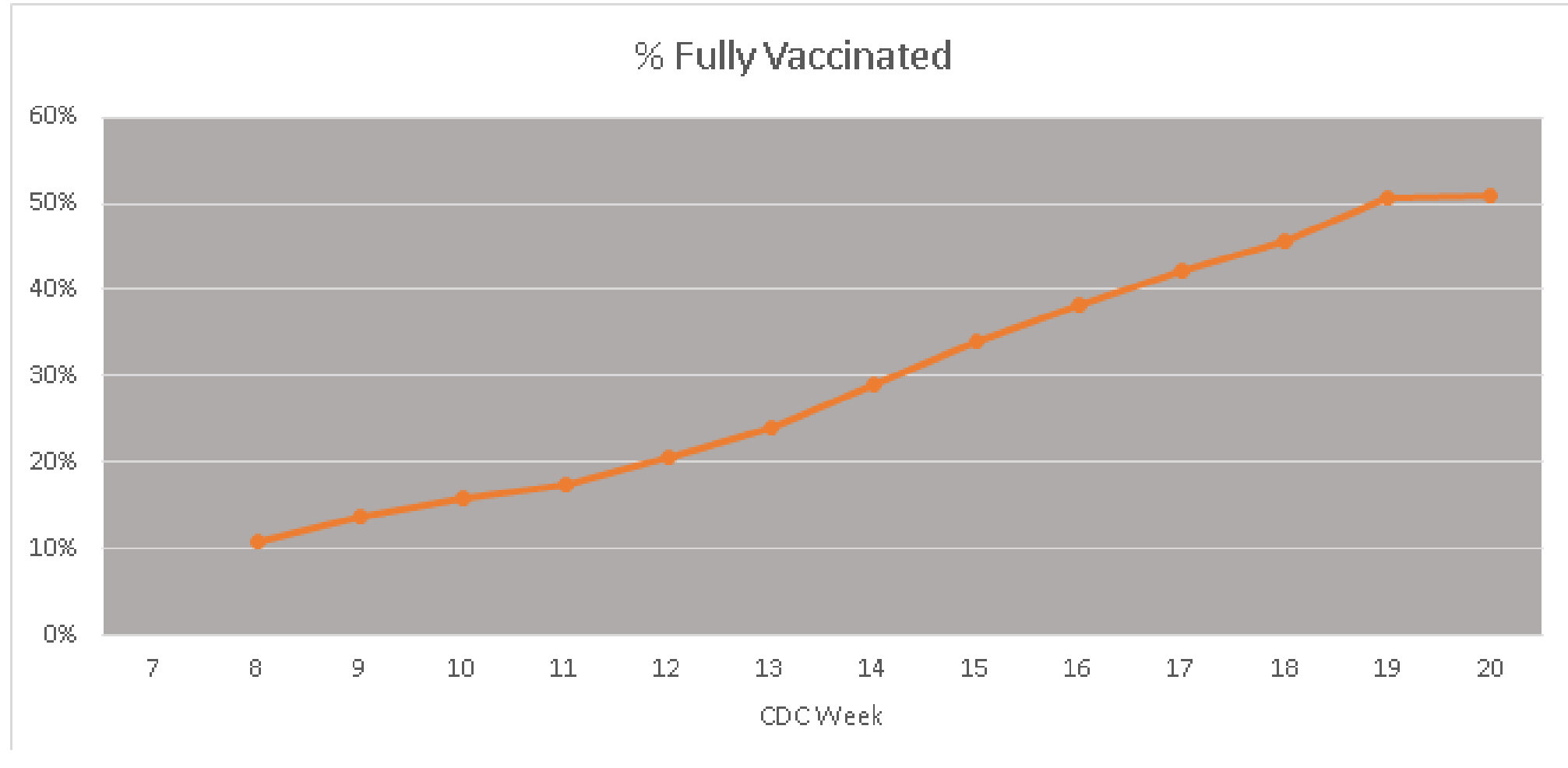


Percent Vaccinated: 95%



• Infected • Unvaccinated • Vaccinated

# Vaccination Progress





# 2. Vaccination Update

Angela Mora



# Parents' Views on Vaccinating Children Against COVID-19

## Survey Overview

- In April of 2021, Hart Research Associates conducted a Nationwide survey among parents of children under the age of 18
- 1,603 parents surveyed between April 17-27, 2021
- At the time of the survey only Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was authorized for use in people aged 16+

## Survey Findings:

- Most parents believe that COVID-19 is a serious problem and worry about their children getting it
- 6 in 10 parents will vaccinate all their children. 27% said they will not. Of these parents, 7 out of 10 have been vaccinated or have plans to do so
- Race plays a role in vaccination intentions for children
- Hesitancy is higher for those with younger children

## Parents' Views on Vaccinating Children Against COVID-19

- 1 in 5 parents have a child who is high risk
- Motivations and Barriers:
  - Motivation 62% - protect child against the virus/keep their children healthy and safe
  - 12% keep them from infecting those around them
  - 8% keep them safe when sending them back to school
  - 36% will not vaccinate their children due to fear of safety, risks and side effects
  - 28% who will not vaccinate believe the vaccine was developed too quickly
  - 2 in 3 parents' confident vaccine will be safe for their children
  - 38% of children have preference to get the vaccine
  - Concerns higher among Latinx and black parents
  - 83% trust pediatrician and doctors' recommendations about the vaccine

## Vaccines in Schools- Survey Results

- 71% feel safer sending their child to school knowing that their child is vaccinated
- 77% feel safer sending their child to school knowing that most child at the school were vaccinated
- 8 in 10 parents favor making vaccine information available in public schools
- Majority support requiring vaccinations for students returning to school in person



# Vaccination Efforts

## Continuous approaches

- *Hubs*
- *Pop-up*
- *Medical Integrated Health Teams/Deployments*
- *Clinic setting*
- *ETF fully integrated into deployment team*

## Vaccination Efforts Continued

- **Hub** – Convention Center M-Sat 8am-7pm; walk-in basis; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses – all vaccine available
- **TDEM** – Eastside Sportsplex

### **Scheduled Pop-up events – 32 scheduled/implemented from 4/29-5/30**

Catholics Diocese Schools: Father Yermo, Cathedral, St. Josephs's St. Marks, St. Patrick's – May 25-June 2nd.

- Outlet Shoppes- Far West El Paso – 3 days Memorial Day weekend
- YMCA – 5/22
- Sol y Lina Health Fair – May 21
- Burnham Charter School – May 20
- Airport – May 19
- San Elizario ISD – May 16
- IDEA –Horizon – May 15
- San Lorenzo Catholic Church – May 20
- PDN Port of Entry – May 20
- Sun Metro - Glory Road, Northeast, Mission Valley – May 15



## Vaccination Efforts Continued

- **Medical Integrated Health Teams** – homebound, nursing homes, shelters, other, as needed
- **Clinic setting** – Stanton, Alameda, and Remcon clinics – walk-in
- Registration & appointment
- Education Task Force and Medical Integrated Health Teams – fully integrated into deployment teams

## Next Steps

- Continue vaccination efforts throughout the City-County
- Address vaccine hesitancy through increased education efforts to dispel vaccine myths and misunderstandings
- Continue identifying/immunizing congregate setting for elderly, disabled, homeless and other shelters
- Continue pediatric outreach efforts for vaccine provider enrollment



# 3. Financial Focus

Robert Cortinas

# Overview

- On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law and established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
- Intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19
- On May 11, 2021, the Department of Treasury released the Interim Final Rule

# Overview

- Funds will be received in two tranches, with the second tranche paid twelve months after the first payment
  - \$154,345,135 = City of El Paso allocation
    - \$77,172,567.50 received May 19, 2021
    - \$77,172,567.50 will be received 12 months after the first payment
- Treasury believes it will be appropriate for a majority of recipients to adapt their plan as the recovery evolves



# Overview

- Permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021
- Costs can be incurred by December 31, 2024 but must be expended by December 31, 2026
- Reporting will include one interim report and thereafter quarterly through end of the award period on December 31, 2026, as well as an Annual Recovery Plan

# Assessing Eligible Programs or Services

- How the use would respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency
  - First, identify a need or negative impact of COVID-19 and
  - Second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact

# Eligible Uses

- To respond to the **public health emergency** or its **negative economic impacts**, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing **premium pay to eligible workers**;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the **reduction in revenue** due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in **water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure**.

# Ineligible Uses

- Cannot spend funds on
  - pension deposits
  - principal or interest of debt service (or settlement agreement)
  - reserves or rainy day funds
- May not be used as non-Federal Match for other Federal Programs

# GFOA Guiding Principles

- Adequate time should be taken to carefully consider all alternatives for the prudent use of ARPA funding (feedback being solicited on recent Treasury guidance)
- Whenever possible, expenditures related to the ARPA funding should be spread over the qualifying period (through December 31, 2024) to enhance budgetary and financial stability
- Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or additions to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment



# GFOA Guiding Principles

- Use other dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible and save ARPA funds for priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs
- Investment in critical infrastructure is particularly well suited use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long- term assets that provide benefits over many years
- Consider regional initiatives, including partnering with other ARPA recipients

# Next Steps

- “Interim Final Rule” because of expedited rulemaking
  - Feedback is solicited, due 60 days from May 17 (Questions sprinkled throughout, 130+ pages)
- Project request feedback being gathered from all City Departments
- Staff is participating in multiple national association meetings, webinars, and informal group discussions
- June 8 - Resolution to appropriate federal funds



# 5. City Manager Wrap Up

Tommy Gonzalez



**Thank you!**