



## A Message from Mayor Rios

March 10, 2021

---

Today we were able to show that Aransas County *can* run a successful, large-scale vaccination clinic for its residents. Almost 1,000 doses were administered today with the remainder being transferred to a secure holding station in Refugio.

Despite some obstacles, including the timing of having it during Spring Break and registration could not start until verification of the receipt of the vaccines on Monday, we persevered. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Patricia Arnold of the Aransas County Medical Services non-profit organization and her volunteers, as well as to the countless City, County and Navigation District employees that worked so hard to make this event a success.

In a two-day period, more than 6,000 calls were made to individuals on the Aransas County Wait list. Many didn't answer and voice mails were left. Additionally, a large number had already received their vaccinations or were waiting for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Due to some glitches with the DSHS registration program, and to help expedite people getting a vaccine today, we posted a registration announcement on the City's web site and Facebook page and shared with a dozen social media sites. We apologize to those who had to duplicate efforts, but we felt it was the best method for the short time frame and the inability to staff the phone bank as the volunteers were working at the clinic today.

In regard to the those who have been vaccinated – bravo!! We know the wait has been difficult and appreciate your taking the initiative to get the vaccine elsewhere. According to yesterday's posted figures, which do not include the 100 doses administered at the 75+ event, more than 3,800 Aransas County residents have received at least one dose and 2,263 are fully vaccinated.

For those who are waiting on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, we have no idea what the supply situation is for the State of Texas. What we do know, is that vaccination events will only be advised of what vaccine is being provided a day before. For the Tuesday event it was Moderna and today it was Pfizer. It is not our place to judge or recommend, but only to let you know that waiting for a particular vaccine may take longer.

Aransas County, the City of Rockport, and the Town of Fulton will continue pushing through all avenues possible to get more of these events for our community. We've demonstrated that it CAN be done and that we have the drive and initiative to overcome setbacks.

As today marks the first day of the new "Open Texas" plan, we encourage you to continue safety protocols. Under this new program, businesses, restaurants, retailers and government offices may continue to require face coverings and temperature checks if they so choose.

The City's Rockport Service Center will open on Monday with continued safety precautions in place. The Laurel Street office will remain closed for the time being as its layout is not conducive to social distancing.

In breaking news, people now 50+ will be eligible for the vaccine on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Be safe!!