

News From The City of Harlingen



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Harlingen Begins Homebound Vaccination Program

Harlingen, Texas—City of Harlingen Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) of the South Texas Emergency Care Foundation (STEC) have kicked off the City’s new Homebound Vaccination Program.

Fifteen firefighters underwent specialized training preparing them to administer COVID-19 Vaccines to Harlingen residents that are homebound due to minimal mobility or a form of



disability that prohibits them from leaving their homes. Working as a team, the firefighters administer the vaccine while the EMTs monitor for any type of reaction.

Harlingen’s Health Director Josh Ramirez says this is an expansion

of the City’s COVID-19 Home Testing Program in Partnership with STEC, its 9-1-1 provider. “We have a list of all the people who have called us for homebound testing so we’re using the same list that we have already. So we’re going through that list to see who wants to get it along with their providers.” Since its start on June 25, 2020, STEC has tested 246 Harlingen residents through the homebound testing program that now also qualify to get the vaccine at home.

City Manager Dan Serna says for the past several months’ city employees have been working hard to ensure that vaccines are accessible to Harlingen residents by distributing wristbands and

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holding vaccine clinics at the Harlingen Convention Center. “I’m very proud of all our employees. This is another example of what they do for the community.”

The vaccine team will be administering the shots Monday through Friday from 8-5. Ramirez says, they will work with the homebound residents should they need after-hours scheduling.

Residents of Harlingen who are homebound can contact the Harlingen Health Department at (956) 216-5220 to register to get the vaccine at home.

Eleven homebound residents were vaccinated on Monday, March 29 with more scheduled for the week. These vaccines were provided by Cameron County. Meantime, Ramirez says the City is also currently working with the National Guard who will provide Johnson & Johnson vaccines for the homebound program.

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