



For Immediate Release

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Harlingen Approves Incentive Program for First Time COVID-19 Vaccines

HARLINGEN, Texas—The City of Harlingen is offering a \$50 incentive to Cameron County residents that receive their first COVID-19 Vaccine between September 1 and October 31, 2021. The incentive will be given to anyone 12 and older that gets the Pfizer and 18 and older that get either the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson Vaccine.

The incentive program approved unanimously by the Harlingen City Commission on September 1 is meant to encourage more people to get vaccinated. This after local hospitals last week reported that 95% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients are unvaccinated. In addition, the Rio Grande Valley is also seeing a surge in cases and the number of deaths has also increased.

Mayor Chris Boswell says although our vaccination rate is higher than other parts of Texas, this is the right thing to do because it's about the greater good of the community. "The time has come for us to think of "we" instead of just the "I" because we're all in this together and together is the only way we're going get past this."

Individuals qualify regardless of where they get the vaccine in the region. This is how the program works.

- Receive 1st dose of Pfizer, Moderna, or J & J
- Receive vaccine between September 1 and October 31, 2021
- Must reside in Cameron County
- Not eligible if received incentive from another entity

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- Individuals may have to wait 48 hours after being vaccinated to receive the incentive while information is uploaded to the CDC web system

The City has set aside \$100,000 for this program in the hopes of getting more people vaccinated with the ultimate goal of eradicating the virus sooner rather than later. The money is part of the American Rescue Plan Act funds awarded to the City.

The next opportunity to get either the Pfizer or Moderna Vaccine here in Harlingen is Friday, Sept. 3 from 10-4 p.m. at the Harlingen Health Department located at 502 E. Tyler. For more information or to set up an appointment call the City's COVID-19 Hotline at (956) 216-5234.

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