

DELTA TALKING POINTS:

HARRIS COUNTY STATISTICS (AS OF AUGUST 25, 2021)

- Due to incentive programs and the FDA's recent approval of the Pfizer vaccine, Harris County's daily vaccination rates have [increased](#) by 529 percent.
- Harris County is the third largest county in the nation. Population is nearly 5 million and geographically is 1,775 square miles.
- Nearly 60 percent of people in Harris County are partially vaccinated, and nearly 50 percent of the population is fully vaccinated
- Vaccination Tracker (Harris County)
<https://data.citizen-times.com/covid-19-vaccine-tracker/texas/harris-county/48201/>
- Vaccination Tracker (State by State comparison),
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/projects/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker-texas/>
- On 8/24, Governor Abbott reported that in Texas, the COVID 7 day positivity rate has declined for two straight weeks. On August 9th it was at 18.92% and is now at 15.76%. The prediction being made is that states hit early with DELTA are now seeing a decline in cases and that Texas may too be following the same trend.

WE ARE SAFELY AND EFFICIVELY HOSTING EVENTS

- So far this year, the Houston has safely and successfully hosted more than 50 meetings and conventions, including Comicpalooza which had nearly 40,000 in attendance.
 - Not a single incidence of illness has been reported as being associated with a hosted event.

SAFETY OF IN-PERSON MEETINGS

- Research conducted by Freeman Shows Attending In-Person Business Events Safer Than Daily Activities Like Going to the Grocery Store, [full research paper here](#).
 - Freeman, a global leader in events, has been tracking participant sentiment with over 3 million responses to date. This is the largest industry panel available on attitudes and behaviors related to COVID-19 and in-person business events.

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Houston First prides itself on ensuring health and safety for both visitors and staff and have taken the following precautions at the George R. Brown Convention Center:

- The facility received a STAR™ accreditation from the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) - the worldwide cleaning industry association. To meet the program's rigorous requirements, venues must establish and maintain detailed protocols and procedures on cleaning, disinfection and prevention of infectious diseases like COVID-19.
- The facility was the first convention center in the nation to install an Integrated Viral Protection (IVP) system, which is the world's first biodefense filtration technology proven to eliminate SARS-CoV-2 (99.999%), anthrax spores (99.8%), and other airborne contaminants through a heated filter without impacting the temperature of the ambient air.
 - The effectiveness of this system has been independently researched and verified by the Texas Center for Superconductivity, the national infectious disease lab at Galveston's University of Texas Medical Branch, the Texas A&M University Engineering Experiment Station, the Argonne National Lab and MIT
 - Over 100 US healthcare facilities have IVP technology on their campuses including: Methodist Hospital (Texas Medical Center), St. Joseph's Medical Center and the University of Texas Medical Branch
- Houston First staff took a leadership role in developing health and safety protocols as part of the Houston Clean initiative, which was a citywide task force committed to enhanced health precautions designed to mitigate virus spread.
- In addition to the 40 permanent hand sanitizing stations, 15 stand-up portable sanitizing units were added to the facility.
- Hospital grade disinfectants are being utilized and sanitation methods were increased in high-traffic areas, such as on escalators, hand rails, and doors.

WE CONTINUE TO ENHANCE SAFETY PROTOCOLS (in development)

- The bio defense system, Integrated Viral Protection (IVP) is in the process of being upgraded to the 2.0 version and we will be adding more units to meeting rooms inside the George R. Brown Convention Center.

UPCOMING BOOKED EVENTS

For the latter half of 2021, Houston First secured major conferences that will welcome thousands of attendees to the convention center. Some of these conventions include:

- October 6-8, 2021 - Texas Municipal League Annual Conference & Exhibition
- October 28-31, 2021 – International Quilts Festival
- December 6-9, 2021 – World Petroleum Congress