

## 'Fair share' of vaccine coming

Health care workers will be first to get shots; mayor warns 'we aren't out of the woods yet'

By Liz Hardaway  
STAFF WRITER

Though anticipation is running high as health providers prepare for the first round of coronavirus vaccines, officials warned residents they were still going to have to live with the virus for awhile.

Gov. Greg Abbott expects the state to receive 14 million doses of the vaccine by this middle of the month. San Antonio anticipates getting its "fair share" of the week of Dec. 14, interim health di-

rector Colleen Bridger said Thursday. The vaccine will go to 10 different health systems initially and will be distributed to health-care workers.

"The distribution plan is being put together as I speak," Bridger said, and she expects to have more details next week.

For non-health care workers, a vaccine could be a ways off.

"We aren't out of the woods yet, so please, this is no time to let your guard down," Mayor Ron Nirenberg said. "Vaccines will become available at some point,

but it's going to take some time before they're available to the general population."

"So, in the mean time, we've got to keep our guard up," Nirenberg said.

With the holiday season in full swing, cases are expected to rise.

"We're going into a time where we're seeing some of our numbers rise," Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff said.

"We're going to start to feel the effects of Thanksgiving, then Christmas, then New Year's at the same time that we're starting to look at the potential of rolling out vaccinations."

"We're going to go through some more tough times, but

we're going to get through them," he added.

The city is already seeing an escalation in infections, with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District reporting 760 new coronavirus cases Thursday — a little more than half of the staggering 1,499 cases reported the day before.

The seven-day rolling average decreased slightly to 795 from Wednesday's 802.

Since the summer when 1,000 cases added a day was almost a norm, Bridger has acted as interim health director for Metro Health and oversaw the city's response to the case counts' ebbs

**COVID-19 continues on AS**

### Coronavirus at a glance

**14,122,913**

Confirmed cases in U.S.

**1,279,007**

In Texas

**83,885**

In Bexar County

**276,148**

Deaths in U.S.

**22,429**

In Texas

**1,372**

In Bexar County\*

\*State count, based on different criteria, is higher.

Source: State of Texas, S.A. Metropolitan Health District, CDC, Johns Hopkins

## Is White House bid in Abbott's future?

By Jeremy Wallace  
AUSTIN BUREAU

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is on a short list of potential Republican contenders for the White House in 2024 who have been invited to a key meeting in Florida in January organized by national GOP leaders.

Abbott and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz are reportedly two of about a dozen potential 2024 White House contenders that Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel has invited to the RNC's annual winter meeting. The invitation, first reported by Politico, is being seen as an attempt by McDaniel to assure potential 2024 GOP contenders that although the RNC has been an arm of Donald Trump's re-election campaign, it is going to be open to other potential nominees heading into 2024, whether Trump runs again or not.

It's the strongest signal yet that other national leaders see Abbott, 63, as a contender for the White House going forward. Abbott is in his second term as governor and has seen his national influence growing. He was tapped last year to lead the national Republican Governor Association which became a key player in helping Republicans win eight of 11 gubernatorial races across the nation this year. Republicans now hold the governorship in 27 states.

The governors association has been a springboard for past governors considering running for president to expand their influence nationally. Then-Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie were leaders of the group before their presidential campaigns.

Asked last month if he would consider running for the White House during a radio interview on KSKY-AM in Dallas, Abbott didn't rule it out. He has announced he'll seek re-election to his current post in 2022.

"You know, one thing that you know about me, I take one step at a time," Abbott told host Mark Davis. "The first step is to win re-election and after that, Mark, we'll see what happens."

Cruz, 49, has made clear he **Abbott continues on AS**

### Wearable device provides COVID-19 protection



Photos by Billy Calzada / Staff photographer



**Dr. Philip Miner and his dental assistant, Hollie Nicholson, work on patient Robert Young on Thursday in San Antonio. Miner used a powered air purifying respirator during appointments to protect against COVID-19. The wearable medical device is made by JustAir, a San Francisco startup that recently relocated its headquarters to San Antonio, and retails for \$249.**

## 9 Texans join in turning up heat on Barr

By Taylor Goldenstein  
AUSTIN BUREAU

Nine members of Congress from Texas joined Republican colleagues in demanding Attorney General William Barr confirm the Justice Department still is investigating allegations of 2020 election fraud and to release the findings.

Barr issued a directive to federal prosecutors last month allowing them to pursue any "substantial allegations" of voting irregu-

larities or fraud before the 2020 presidential election was certified.

On Tuesday, Barr said in an interview with the Associated Press that U.S. attorneys and FBI agents have looked into complaints, but "to date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election."

The comments contradicted President Donald Trump's repeated unsupported claims that the election was stolen from him.

The campaign filed several lawsuits in battleground states following the election, but they've been largely unsuccessful — most have been dismissed or denied.

Thirty-six members of Congress, including the Texans, in a letter to Barr that same day, were adamant that the attorney general was wrong. They called on Barr to issue subpoenas and search warrants and impound ballot materials and election devices for "forensic analysis."

The Texas representatives who signed the letter were Jodey Arrington, Brian Babin, Michael Conaway, Michael Cloud, Dan Crenshaw, Bill Flores, Louie Gohmert, Lance Gooden and Randy Weber.

"The Department of Justice, we're waiting on them to give us some kind of indicia that they are actually investigating the multiple allegations of improprieties in this 2020 presidential election," House Freedom Caucus Chairman Andy Biggs, R-Arizona, said **Texas continues on AS**

## City OKs rezoning for home for recovering moms, babies

By Laura Garcia  
STAFF WRITER

Despite opposition from District 2 Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan, a majority of City Council members Thursday approved a rezoning request to open a Women's Wellness Campus in her district.

Emmanuel AME Church will be able to move forward with its sale of a portion of its property at 600 Semlinger Road to Grospoint Inc., a nonprofit that operates several transitional and rehabilitative facilities across the city.

Crosspoint and UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing want to use the property to build a 40-

bed home for mothers and babies recovering from substance abuse — a project that already has received \$3.8 million in grants.

"We have not seen any kind of economic development in the district, yet we get a transitional home? I vote in favor of my community," Andrews-Sullivan said at the meeting, before she voted

against the project.

She cited feedback from an overwhelming majority of constituents who feel their district on the East Side has been neglected and in recent years has become a "dumping ground."

In zoning issues, the council usually defers to a district's elected representative, and that's

what District 6 Councilwoman Melissa Cabello Havrda did when she voted to deny the rezoning request.

But ultimately, the final motion to move the project forward was approved, 8-2. District 4 Councilwoman Adriana Rocha Garcia abstained.

**City Council continues on AS**