

La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)
P.O. Box 188
San Juan, Texas 78589
(956) 787-2233

RE: Request for UTRGV to Stop Denying Vaccines Based on Immigration Status

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) has reviewed the recent errors made in providing vaccines to individuals at its site in Edinburg. UTRGV apologizes for the inconvenience and commits to you that all individuals will be eligible for vaccination, irrespective of their residency or immigration status.

The review revealed that UT Health RGV leadership, based on its understanding of guidance from state-level advisers, instructed UT Health RGV vaccine staff to only vaccinate Texas residents. Currently, we are aware of approximately 14 individuals who were affected by our errors, and all of them have been rescheduled or are being contacted to be rescheduled.

Additionally, the UT Health RGV vaccine staff has been trained to ensure that these errors are not repeated, and oversight will be ongoing to maintain performance.

In keeping with its mission, UTRGV's commitment is to offer vaccinations to all individuals eligible under the State of Texas priority categories without regard to residency, citizenship, or immigration status. To further promote this commitment, we have attached a Public Notice in English and Spanish that we will post at all our vaccination sites and also share on our various websites and social media platforms. We respectfully ask that you share our Public Notice with your constituents, as well.

Finally, UTRGV will continue to augment and broaden its ongoing educational campaign around the COVID-19 vaccine through public educational approaches in both English and Spanish. Core to this messaging will be our commitment to offer the vaccine to all individuals eligible under the State of Texas priority categories without regard to residency or immigration status. We have already updated and translated our [vaccination FAQs](#) to reflect our commitment.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis one year ago, UTRGV has administered over 100,000 diagnostic tests and given almost 30,000 vaccinations to optimize the health and safety of the Rio Grande Valley. Our commitment will continue. We look forward to working with all of our partners across the Valley toward this important goal.

Sincerely,
UT Health RGV