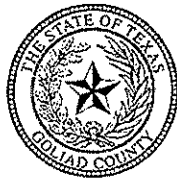


County of Goliad



MIKE BENNETT
COUNTY JUDGE

P.O. Box 677
Goliad, Texas 77963
mbennett@goliadcountytexas.gov

(361) 645-3337
Fax (361) 645-3474

January 14, 2021

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, I was asked by the State Health Department to join in a conference call to discuss COVID-19 vaccinations in Goliad County. That call took place at 8:30 that morning. Jimmy Schulze was also on that call. We were informed that 300 vaccinations would be made available at the auditorium between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., on Saturday, January 16, by appointment. The vaccines were to be made available to persons 65 years old and older. Individuals with chronic health issues would also be eligible. Appointments were to be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

The state health officials said registration would take place on a state-provided website. They said registration would be open to anyone, regardless of whether that a person lived in Goliad County or not. My office has been receiving calls from Goliad citizens for a few weeks now, complaining that vaccination sites in other counties would not allow them to get the vaccine in those counties.

I relayed this to the state officials and requested that we be allowed to register our citizens by telephone. By noon on that day, we had several phone lines dedicated to that process and posted the announcement on our Facebook page. The response was overwhelming, and all 300 slots were filled by 5 p.m. that day.

I fully understand that everyone who wanted the vaccine did not get an appointment. My wife and I are both over 65 years old, and we did not get in, either. What I will tell you is that only Goliad residents got an appointment, rather than people from other areas. I wish that more vaccines had been made available, but that is out of our control.

I apologize for the short notice, but we acted as soon as we were made aware. I'm confident that more vaccines will be made available soon, and we will give as much notice as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bennett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Bennett