



Mobilizing Transit and Public Health Partnerships for COVID-19 Vaccinations

SPARTAN Transit – Levelland, TX

Operating 60 vehicles on 25 routes and on-demand service, SPARTAN provides service for the South Plains Rural Transit District, comprised of 17 counties in South Central Texas.

Supporting the Vaccination Effort

SPARTAN Transit has been committed to assisting their community in every way they can during the Covid-19 pandemic. Coordinating with local health departments, SPARTAN has been providing free rides to testing sites for individuals in the community. SPARTAN Transit has used social media, the local 211 community services hotline, and provided flyers to local health and human services agencies to advertise the free rides. Building these relationships, both before and during the pandemic, has allowed SPARTAN to use their resources more efficiently, such as coordinating times for their riders to get tested, thus ensuring their vehicles are not held-up waiting in line and even using their bus facilities for vaccinations.

To support the vaccination effort, SPARTAN is offering fare-free rides for individuals in need of transportation to their vaccination appointments and is currently using their brand-new facility as a vaccination center. SPARTAN trip schedulers can assist community members in finding their vaccination site and with scheduling transportation after they have made an appointment. Their recently constructed facility in Levelland, Texas, was opened to the public as the first mass vaccination site in the city. In a single day, the vaccine clinic brought facets of the entire community together, from county judges to the health department, to get nearly 1,000 people vaccinated through the clinic. Not only did this provide a vital health service to the community, but also showcased SPARTAN's essential work to community members who may not have used their services before.

All-in-all, both efforts took a great deal of coordination from SPARTAN to implement. In getting community members to their appointments, SPARTAN realized there were some issues ensuring that residents knew to make their vaccine appointment with the Department of Health and not the transit agency. SPARTAN provided additional training to their schedulers to be able to direct people to the correct vaccination site, ensuring people know who is offering what service, such as vaccination versus transportation. Offering their facilities also required working with a range of community stakeholders, from police providing traffic control to a dedicated group of volunteers assisting those getting vaccinated through the process. Arranging all of this took a great deal of time and effort, but it surely paid off. SPARTAN was able to hold a successful event by leveraging the existing relationships they have built in their community. SPARTAN is dedicated to providing as much help to their community as they can, including offering their facilities for additional vaccine clinics when the supply increases.

You can learn more about SPARTAN Transit and all of the vital work they are doing in their community on their [website](#).