

Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) allocated additional funds for the COVID Epidemiology and Lab Capacity Grant to assist the City of Austin, Austin Public Health (APH) to conduct disease surveillance and reporting activities for a variety of high-consequence diseases, including COVID.

Building on and continuing the ongoing activities funded through the COVID Epidemiology and Lab Capacity Grant, the expansion provides funds to transition our current COVID-19 surveillance from active surveillance (counting cases) to passive surveillance (trend analyses and other indicators). Staff will develop and implement systems based on best practices to monitor respiratory viruses, including COVID, to expand our current respiratory virus surveillance.

The additional \$486,203 to be spent by July 31, 2026, will extend personnel and fringe budget line items for 3 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions through July 31, 2026, and increase training, travel, and supplies. The additional funding brings the grant award to \$1,653,091 from August 31, 2020.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.