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DFWHC announces 5 minutes of silence on Sept. 3

IRVING, TX – The Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC) announced today it would observe 5 minutes of silence on September 3, 2021, from 12:00 noon to 12:05 p.m. in honor of the 18-month anniversary of the first diagnosed case of COVID-19 in Texas. The gesture will be an opportunity for residents to reflect on the loss of life and the difficulties caused by the pandemic in Texas.

“This is our way of offering thanks to our physicians, clinicians, healthcare support staff, first responders and hospitals for their tremendous efforts to prevent and treat COVID-19,” said Stephen Love, president/CEO of DFWHC. “We would also like to create awareness of the ongoing danger of this virus. At this very moment, our hospitals are filling up with patients and people are dying. Our healthcare workforce has been dealing with this pandemic for a very long time.”

The first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed on March 3, 2020, when a resident of Fort Bend County who recently returned from travelling abroad tested positive. On March 13, 2020, less than two weeks later, Texas Governor Greg Abbott would declare a statewide disaster as the virus spread across the state.

“We would like everyone to focus on three important thoughts during the 5-minute time frame on September 3,” Love said. “First, offer condolences to everyone who has lost loved ones to this virus. Second, thank our healthcare heroes who have been working for so many long months. Finally, ask yourself, ‘What can I do to help stop this virus?’”

Over the past 18 months, almost 56,000 Texas residents have lost their lives to COVID-19.

“If you are unvaccinated, please get vaccinated as soon as possible. They are free and safe,” said Love. “We would also like to ask everyone, whether vaccinated or

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unvaccinated, to please wear masks when around other people. We must decrease this present surge.”

As of August 25, more Texas hospitals were reporting a shortage of ICU beds than at any other time since the pandemic began, with more than 93% of the hospitalized COVID-19 patients unvaccinated, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

“We hope everyone will participate in the 5 minutes of silence as we continue our fight against this very dangerous COVID-19 virus,” Love said.

DFWHC is a 90 hospital and 90 associate member trade organization with more than 50 years of service to North Texas healthcare. Governed by a Board of Trustees made up of hospital executive officers, the hospital trade association is committed to the continuous improvement of patient care.

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