



The University of Texas at Austin  
Dell Medical School

Health Discovery Building • 1701 Trinity St. • Austin, TX 78712

May 8, 2020

**Re: Letter of Support**

Dear Frio County COVID-19 Command Center Reviewers,

The COVID-19 pandemic creates a public health crisis for all, with rural communities disproportionately affected. Without robust public health infrastructures, rural communities must identify innovative resources, focused on collaboratively designed solutions, to bridge these gaps. It is without hesitation that I offer this letter of endorsement of and my steadfast support for the Frio County COVID-19 Command Center.

The Frio County COVID-19 Command Center project represents the intersection of **community** and **technology** resulting in a novel approach to conducting—not just contact tracing, but also the design expands to include data collection and evaluation for decision-making and communication and public health education. COVID-19 illuminates, like no other health crisis in the last 100 years, the unequal effects in health, healthcare, and health outcomes. This coordination of public health systems is a collaborative response to such longstanding community needs.

Inspired by and designed to address such inequity, the Frio County COVID-19 Command Center project is a community-driven response that is powered by local knowledge, community partners, and the desire to create a more robust and responsive community for all. The Frio County COVID-19 Command Center is an answer to a call from community members, one that will deliver now and in the future.

Again, thank you for accepting this letter of support and if you have any further questions, please contact me at (512) 937-3614 or by email at [virginia.brown@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:virginia.brown@austin.utexas.edu).

Kind regards,

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