COVID-19 Vaccine: Fact Sheet

Key Assumptions for COVID-19 Vaccine Availability

- Limited doses are now available, but supply will increase in early 2021
- Two vaccines available under Emergency Use Authorization issued by the FDA
- Cold chain storage and handling requirements are likely to vary from refrigerated to ultra-cold frozen
- Two doses from same manufacturer separated by 21 or 28 days, will be needed for immunity for most COVID-19 vaccines

Texas Guiding Principles to Vaccine Distribution

- Protecting health care workers who fill a critical role in saving lives
- Protecting front-line workers who provide critical services and are preserving the economy
- Protecting vulnerable populations who are at greater risk of severe COVID-19 disease and death
- Mitigating health inequities due to factors such as demographics, poverty and insurance status
- Data-driven allocations that allow for flexibility for local conditions
- Geographic diversity that considers balanced access in urban and rural areas
- Transparency with the public and seeking public feedback

COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP)

- Appointed panel of external and internal subject matter experts
- Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health
- Establish prioritization of critical populations for Phase 1 and Phase 2 distribution
- Weekly review of the data to guide allocation recommendations

Weekly Allocation Process

1. CDC Sends List to Vendor - Ships to Provider
2. DSHS Sends Information to CDC
3. DSHS Commissioner - Makes Final Allocation Decision
4. EVAP - Reviews Recommendations and Makes Their Own
5. DSHS Monitors Vaccine Availability
6. CDC Recommendation & Vaccine Availability

Limited Supply

- 1A: Direct Care - Hospital, Long-Term Care, EMS 9-1-1, Home Health; Long-Term Care Residents
- 1A: Direct Services - Outpatient, ER/Urgent Care, Pharmacies, Last Responders, School Nurses

Additional Supply

- 1B: Persons 65+ or 16+ with at least one chronic medical condition, including pregnancy
- 1C: Under consideration
- 2: Under Consideration

Broad Supply

- 3: Under Consideration

Quick Answers

Who pays for the vaccine?
- It’s free to everyone, federal government pays for it. Plus, providers can seek reimbursement from insurance for administering vaccine.

Who can get vaccine?
- Eventually everyone will. There is phased distribution, starting with health care staff and LTC residents.

Is vaccine mandated?
- No. It is voluntary.

Do I need the vaccine if I’ve already had COVID-19?
- Yes. Immunity from vaccine may last longer than natural immunity.

Do I still need to wear mask, social distance if I’ve had the vaccine?
- Yes. We don’t know if the vaccine prevents you from spreading the virus.

Visit dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine for Vaccine Dashboard & more