

## Member COVID-19 Vaccine Key Messages

**Members should check the DSHS website and social media accounts for the most current information, as information is subject to change.**

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***Do your research to check your eligibility and find a vaccine provider.***

- Be patient. Vaccine supply is limited, but Texas receives more vaccines every week.
- Phase 1A and Phase 1B individuals can get the vaccine right now. This includes:
  - Healthcare staff.
  - Texans 65 years of age and older.
  - People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:
    - Cancer
    - Chronic kidney disease
    - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
    - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
    - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
    - Solid organ transplantation
    - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher)
    - Pregnancy
    - Sickle cell disease
- If you are in Phase 1 and eligible to receive the vaccine, please check the [COVID-19 Vaccination Hub Providers page](#) to find a hub near you and learn how to register.
- Alternately, you can also check the websites of vaccine providers listed on the [Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Availability map](#) to see if they have enough vaccine supply at this time.
- Remember:
  - Do not show up at a hospital or clinic looking for vaccine.
  - Instead, please check their website for information about vaccine availability.
  - Call only if the website doesn't answer your questions.

***For detailed information about COVID-19 vaccine types, effectiveness and how the vaccine works, visit: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-faqs.aspx>***

***COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed as they become available.***

- The Texas Commissioner of Health appointed an [Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel](#) to make recommendations on vaccine allocation decisions.
- This panel identifies groups that should be vaccinated first with the goal of providing protection to vulnerable populations and critical state resources.
- Other groups will receive vaccines in coming months as more vaccines are made available.

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**Safety remains a top priority.**

- COVID-19 vaccines have been evaluated in tens of thousands of volunteers during clinical trials and are only authorized for use if they are found to be safe.
- Even though no safety issues were found, the CDC and other federal partners will continue to monitor the COVID-19 vaccines.
- The US vaccine safety system is already strong, and new safety systems have been added for COVID-19 vaccines.

**Getting "back to normal" will take all our tools.**

- Get vaccinated when you become eligible.
- Wear a mask.
- Stay 6 feet away from others and avoid crowds.
- Wash your hands often.

<b>COVID-19 Vaccine Information Resources</b>	
General Information	DSHS: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx#fourthings">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx#fourthings</a> CDC: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html</a>
Detailed Definitions of Phases	DSHS Phase 1A definitions: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1A.pdf">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1A.pdf</a> DSHS Phase 1B definitions: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf</a>
FAQs	DSHS: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-faqs.aspx">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-faqs.aspx</a>
COVID-19 Vaccination Hub Providers	<a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx</a>
Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations	<a href="https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91ac7fb5e5fd47e7ada4acfe4a05920a">https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91ac7fb5e5fd47e7ada4acfe4a05920a</a>
"V-Safe" After Vaccination Health Checker	CDC: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html</a>
Texas COVID-19 Allocation	Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Phase Definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1A: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1A.pdf">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1A.pdf</a></li> <li>○ Phase 1B: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf</a></li> </ul> Guiding Principles: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/COVIDVaccine-AllocationPrinciples.pdf">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/COVIDVaccine-AllocationPrinciples.pdf</a>  About the Texas Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel: <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/covid19/COVID-19-Expert-Vaccine-Allocation-Panel/">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/covid19/COVID-19-Expert-Vaccine-Allocation-Panel/</a>