

Member COVID-19 Vaccine Key Messages

Members should check the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) website and social media accounts for the most current information, as information is subject to change.

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/m² 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.

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- Other groups will receive vaccines in coming months as more vaccines are made available.

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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Resources	
General Information	DSHS: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx#fourthings CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html
Detailed Definitions of Phases	DSHS Phase 1A definitions: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1A.pdf DSHS Phase 1B definitions: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf
FAQs	DSHS: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-faqs.aspx
COVID-19 Vaccination Hub Providers	https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx
Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations	https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91ac7fb5e5fd47e7ada4acfe4a05920a
"V-Safe" After Vaccination Health Checker	CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

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Texas COVID-19 Allocation	<p>Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Phase Definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Phase 1A: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1A.pdf○ Phase 1B: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf <p>Guiding Principles: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/COVIDVaccine-AllocationPrinciples.pdf</p> <p>About the Texas Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/covid19/COVID-19-Expert-Vaccine-Allocation-Panel/</p>
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