

COVACC-20 Tabletop Exercise – DSHS Handout

Tabletop Exercise Overview

The goal of this exercise is to amend and verify the State's Vaccine Distribution Plan to serve our Texas communities and their citizens to the best of our abilities. The purpose is to examine viability of the State's Vaccine Distribution plan and its operational procedures. Covid-19 vaccine will only be available through the state enrolled providers. CDC will make weekly allocations to the states.

Key Assumptions



Limited doses may be available by early November 2020, but **supply will increase substantially** in 2021



Initial supply will either be **approved as a licensed vaccine** or **authorized for use under an EUA** issued by the FDA



Cold chain storage and handling requirements are likely to vary from refrigerated to **ultra-cold frozen**



Two doses, separated by ≥ 21 or 28 days, will be **needed for immunity** for most COVID-19 vaccines

Phased Approach

Phase 0

- Vaccination Provider recruitment and registration
- Communication, outreach, and engagement to providers, public, and stakeholders

Phase 1: Limited supply of vaccine (3–6 months)

- Limited availability to frontline, essential workers (i.e. Healthcare)
- McKesson will direct ship vaccines to DSHS identified registered providers
- Large pharmacy chains, enrolled directly by CDC, may serve limited populations such as long-term care facilities
- Continue ongoing provider recruitment and registration

Phase 2: Increased supply of vaccine (6–9 months)

- Emphasis on completing vaccine series for members of Phase 1 frontline essential worker populations
- Begin vaccinations for additional frontline and vulnerable populations
- Specialized vaccine teams will fill gaps in access to vaccinate identified groups
- Continue ongoing provider recruitment and registration

Phase 3: Sufficient supply of vaccine (A year or more)

- Ensure equitable vaccination access across the entire population.
- Monitor vaccine uptake and coverage; reassess strategy to maximize coverage
- May extend vaccine teams to ensure second doses are administered and increase coverage rates in communities with low uptake

Phase 4: Sufficient supply of vaccine with a decreased need due to most of the population being vaccinated previously (Several years later)

- May include boosters or annual vaccines if required
- Vaccine availability open throughout private providers. Population able to visit provider of choice

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CDC Critical Populations for COVID-19

Category	Includes:
Essential workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare personnel (i.e. hospital staff, EMS, vaccinators, pharmacy and long-term care staff) Other essential workers (i.e. first responders, education, others with critical roles who cannot easily socially distance)
People at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People 65 years of age and older LTCF residents (i.e., nursing home, assisted living, others) People with underlying medical conditions that are risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness
People at increased risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People from racial and ethnic minority groups People from tribal communities People who are incarcerated/detained in correctional facilities People experiencing homelessness/living in shelters People attending colleges/universities People living in other congregate settings
People with limited access to routine vaccination services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People living in rural communities People with disabilities People who are under- or un-insured

Groups and individuals may fall into multiple categories. Prioritization recommendations among and within groups are in development.

Expert Vaccination Allocation Panel

DSHS will convene a team of agency subject-matter experts into the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP). The EVAP will develop vaccine allocation strategies and provide recommendations to the DSHS Commissioner for phases 1 and 2. Considerations may include overall vaccine coverage, critical population demographics, and any FDA or manufacturer vaccine specific provisions. Weekly reviews of the data may adjust the recommendations.

CDC Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccination Providers

Vaccination providers must have an active Texas provider identification. They must follow State and Federal requirements and recommendations to ensure vaccine integrity, report doses administered or wasted, and report any adverse event.

Communication, Outreach, Engagement

DSHS will develop targeted messages for providers, the public, and stakeholders that provide appropriate information regarding vaccine information, safety, and availability.

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DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan:

<https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates/Texas-Vaccine-Plan-10-16-2020-DRAFT-CDC-Submission.pdf>

Website for Providers:

www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/provider-information.aspx

DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Hotline:

(877) 835-7750, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

Email: COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov

Website to enroll as a COVID-19 provider:

Visit: EnrollTexasIZ.dshs.texas.gov

General Questions:

Email: COVIDvaccineQs@dshs.texas.gov