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THA FAQs on COVID-19 Vaccination Hubs

The Texas Hospital Association offers guidance as member hospitals begin receiving COVID-19 vaccine allocations under the state's evolving "hub" model. The guidance includes basic information on the hub process, as understood by THA. THA will provide updates as additional information becomes available.

1. What is the "hub" model?

The Texas Department of State Health Services has established mass vaccination hubs with providers in areas capable of administering a minimum of 2,000 to 4,000 vaccines per day in urban areas and a minimum of 200 to 400 per day in rural areas.

2. How can my hospital qualify as a hub?

DSHS asks that all sites interested in serving as a hub commit to the following:

- Vaccinate eligible 1A and 1B populations;
- Vaccinate individuals that reside outside of the county in which the hub is located;
- Administer all vaccine received within 5-7 days of receipt;
- Report administration of every dose to both ImmTrac2 and the TDEM portal;
- Make efforts toward equitable distribution of vaccine – consider additional outreach to the hardest hit zip codes and populations;
- Vaccinate members of the general public, beyond the hospital's normal patient population; and
- Host a public facing vaccination registration process

3. What is the VAOS portal?

The Vaccine Allocation and Ordering System initially served as a means for sites to register their willingness to vaccinate. It will now function more as an ordering process where a site may order according to ability and capacity for distribution in accordance with the above terms. Note that registering and ordering through VAOS does not guarantee an allocation but does allow your site to make clear any capacity and ability to comply with requirements.

4. Is there anything our facility can do to improve our standing to serve as a hub?

THA member hospitals may consider a plan that includes:

- Partnering with a local or regional health department or other applicable community partners and sending plan details to DSHS at localvaccines@dshs.texas.gov for future consideration;

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- Coordinating with local, city, county or state leaders to support and advocate for their plan;
- Clearly identifying the amount of vaccine the facility can administer, how many counties will be affected by those efforts and what percentage of individuals in the 1B population will be served;
- Establishing a site that is easily accessible and ensures ample access via public transit and/or with ample parking;
- Clearly outlining refrigeration/freezer storage plans at the vaccination site; and
- Evidence that all received doses will be distributed within 5-7 days of receipt.

5. Is there anything else we need to know?

The state's plan, and the information related to the plan, evolves on a weekly basis. THA is actively engaged with the state and is committed to keeping members apprised of key developments. Member hospitals are encouraged to contact DSHS at localvaccines@dshs.texas.gov with questions and/or concerns.