



RE: Increasing Access to Vaccination Opportunities: COVID-19 Vaccination upon Discharge from Hospitals, Emergency Departments, and Urgent Care Facilities

June 7, 2021

Greetings!

Texas continues to reach COVID-19 vaccination milestones as a direct result of all the hard work by our providers over the last six months. Hospitals, emergency departments, and urgent care facilities play an important role as trusted sources of health care, and so I am once again asking for your help in ensuring every single Texan has the opportunity for vaccination.

I am asking all hospitals, emergency departments, and urgent care facilities to consider offering COVID-19 vaccination to all patients at discharge. As always, providers should use their clinical judgement on patient eligibility when administering COVID-19 vaccination, and any COVID-19 vaccine can be used. For a vaccine that requires two doses, patients could receive their second dose at the appropriate time from another provider in the community.

While continuing to follow best practices to use every dose possible, providers should not miss an opportunity to vaccinate every eligible person when they are ready to get vaccinated, even if it means puncturing a multidose vial to administer vaccine without having enough people available to receive each dose.

Thank you again for all you do.


With regards,

John Hellerstedt, MD
Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services