



COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Guiding Principles

Background

Once one or more COVID-19 vaccines are authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, vaccine will be in limited supply as production ramps up. During this period, Texas will receive regular allotments of vaccine from the federal government. Vaccine will be shipped directly to enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers as allocated by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Those providers will then immunize Texans who choose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

So that the vaccine can be deployed as effectively as possible, DSHS has created an Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP) to make recommendations on vaccine allocation decisions, including identifying groups that should be vaccinated first to provide the most protection to vulnerable populations and critical state resources. The panel has recommended and the Commissioner of Health John Hellerstedt, MD, has approved the following guiding principles that provide the foundation for the Texas vaccine allocation process.

Vaccine Allocation Guiding Principles

Texas will allocate COVID-19 vaccines that are in limited supply based on:

- **Protecting health care workers** who fill a critical role in caring for and preserving the lives of COVID-19 patients and maintaining the health care infrastructure for all who need it.
- **Protecting front-line workers** who are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of their work providing critical services and preserving the economy.
- **Protecting vulnerable populations** who are at greater risk of severe disease and death if they contract COVID-19.
- **Mitigating health inequities** due to factors such as demographics, poverty, insurance status and geography.
- **Data-driven allocations** using the best available scientific evidence and epidemiology at the time, allowing for flexibility for local conditions.
- **Geographic diversity** through a balanced approach that considers access in urban and rural communities and in affected ZIP codes.
- **Transparency** through sharing allocations with the public and seeking public feedback.