



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan Update

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# DISCLAIMER

The information presented today is based on CDC's recent guidance and MAY change.

December 7, 2020

# Phased Approach to Vaccination

(Specific dates are subject to change)

- ***Phase 0 (October 2020 - November 2020)***
  - Provider recruitment and registration into ImmTrac2 and new web-based portal.
- ***Phase 1 (December 2020 – January 2021): Limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses available.***
  - Vaccines will be direct-shipped to registered providers serving healthcare workers and other select populations based upon the DSHS Commissioner's approval in accordance with CDC/ACIP recommendations.
  - Occupational healthcare settings will be the primary administrators of vaccines.
  - Some large chains enrolled directly by CDC to serve some targeted populations (long-term care facilities).
  - Continue ongoing provider recruitment and registration to ensure access to vaccination.



# Phased Approach to Vaccination

(Specific dates are subject to change)

- ***Phase 2 (February 2021-July 2021): Increased number of vaccine doses available.***
  - Emphasis on ensuring access to vaccine for members of Phase 1 critical populations who were not yet vaccinated as well as for the additional populations; expand provider network.
  - Texas will use specialized vaccine teams, as needed, to vaccinate identified critical groups lacking access to the vaccine (e.g., rural communities).
- ***Phase 3 (July 2021 -October 2021): Sufficient supply of vaccine doses for entire population.***
  - DSHS will focus on ensuring equitable vaccination access across the entire population. Monitor vaccine uptake and coverage; reassess strategy to increase uptake in populations or communities with low coverage.
  - May consider extending the use of vaccine teams depending on the uptake and coverage received thus far, especially to ensure second doses are administered from the end of Phase 2.
- ***Phase 4 (October 2021 and forward): Sufficient supply of vaccine with a decreased need due to most of the population being vaccinated already.***
  - May include boosters or annual vaccines, if required.
  - Vaccine availability open throughout private providers. Population able to visit provider of choice.



# CDC Critical Populations for COVID-19

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

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

# COVID-19 Expert Vaccination Allocation Panel (EVAP)

- Texas has convened a team of appointed external and internal subject-matter experts (SME) into the COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP) to develop vaccine allocation strategies as recommendations to the Texas Commissioner of Health.
- The panel will develop and apply guiding principles in their recommendations.
- The recommendations from the EVAP will be sent to the Texas Commissioner of Health for final approval.
- EVAP voting members

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/evap.aspx>



# Texas Vaccine Allocation Guiding Principles

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

- **Protecting healthcare workers** who fill a critical role in caring for and preserving the lives of COVID-19 patients and maintaining the healthcare 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.



# COVID-19 Critical Population Update

## Phase 1A Healthcare Workers Definition – First Tier

1. Hospital staff working directly with patients who are positive or at high risk for COVID-19. Includes:
  - a. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.)
  - b. Additional clinical staff providing supporting laboratory, pharmacy, diagnostic, and/or rehabilitation services
2. Long-term care staff working directly with vulnerable residents. Includes:
  - a. Direct care providers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and state supported living centers
  - b. Physicians, nurses, personal care assistants, custodial, food service staff
3. EMS providers who engage in 9-1-1 emergency services like pre-hospital care and transport
4. Home health care workers, including hospice care, who directly interface with vulnerable and high-risk patients
5. Residents of long-term care facilities



# COVID-19 Critical Population Update

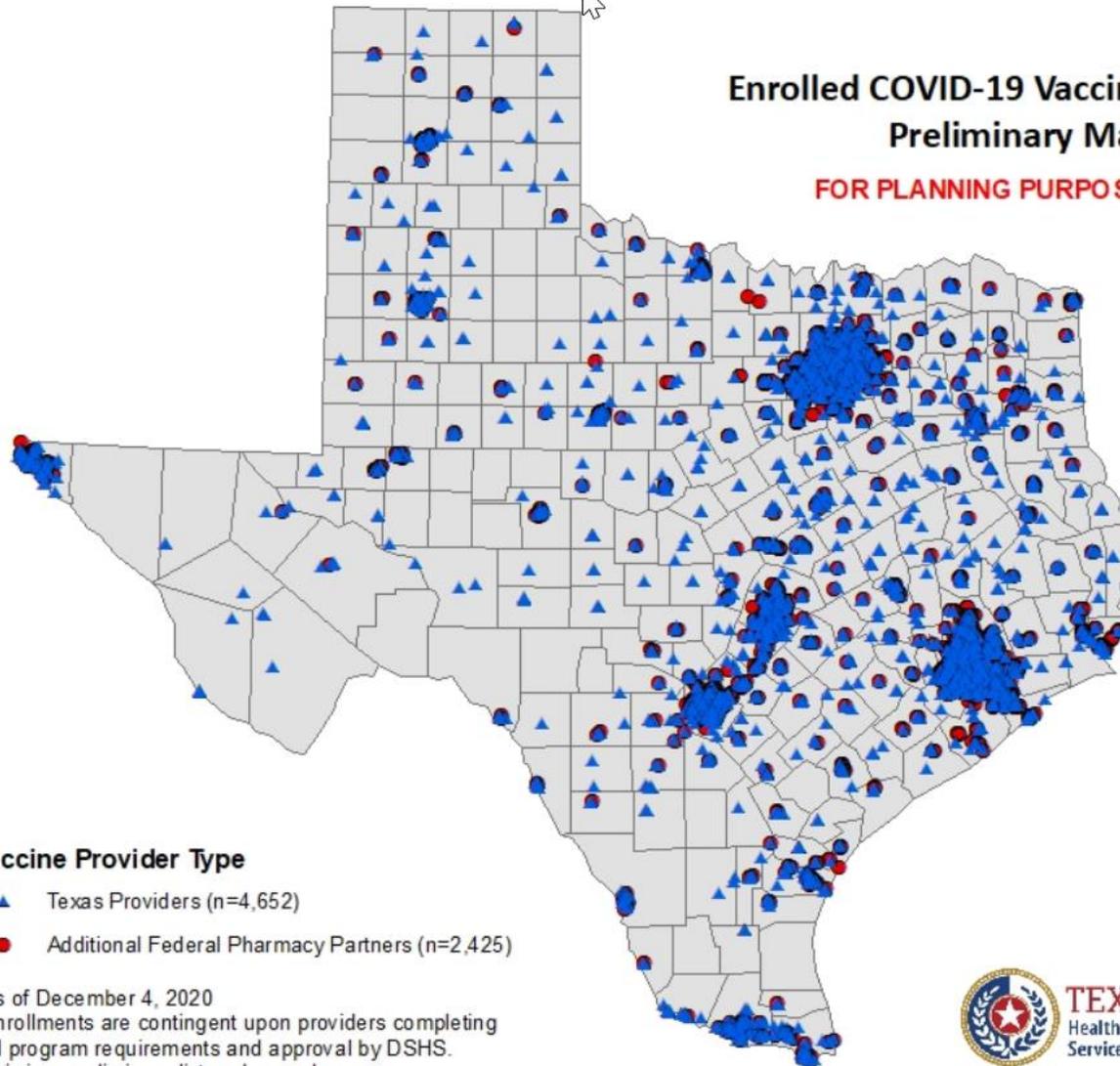
## Phase 1A Healthcare Workers Definition – Second Tier

1. Staff in outpatient care offices who interact with symptomatic patients. Includes:
  - a. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.).
  - b. Clinical staff providing diagnostic, laboratory, and/or rehabilitation services
  - c. Non-91-1 transportation for routine care
2. Direct care staff in freestanding emergency medical care facilities and urgent care clinics.
3. Community pharmacy staff who may provide direct services to clients, including vaccination or testing for individuals who may have COVID-19.
4. Public health and emergency response staff directly involved in administration of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.
5. Last responders who provide mortuary or death services to decedents with COVID-19. Includes:
  - Embalmers and funeral home workers who have direct contact with decedents
  - Medical examiners and other medical certifiers who have direct contact with decedents
6. School nurses who provide health care to students and teachers.



## Enrolled COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Preliminary Map

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY



### Vaccine Provider Type

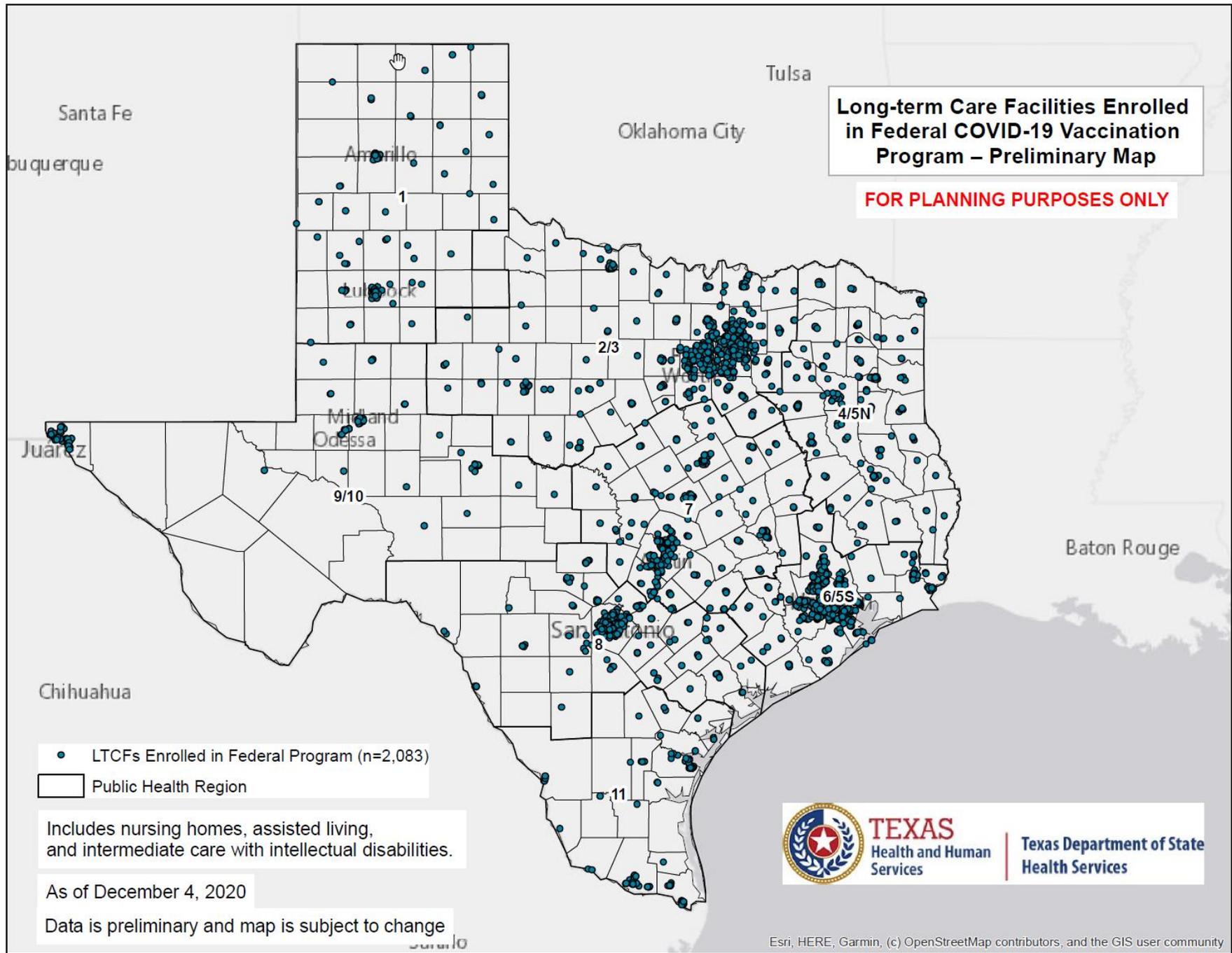
- ▲ Texas Providers (n=4,652)
- Additional Federal Pharmacy Partners (n=2,425)

As of December 4, 2020  
Enrollments are contingent upon providers completing  
all program requirements and approval by DSHS.  
This is a preliminary list and map change.



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# Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation & Distribution Timeline

## The First Vaccine Allocation

- 12/02/2020-12/03/2020 - Vaccine doses allocated to 109 hospitals across the state
- 12/04/2020 - Providers accepted allocations and DSHS submitted orders to the CDC
- 12/14/2020 – 12/18/2020 – Vaccine shipment & delivery to hospitals, depending on the date(s) of the EUA issuance/ACIP recommendations

## Subsequent Vaccine Allocations

- Weekly allocations, depending on vaccine availability
- Allocations are made ~2 weeks in advance of shipment/delivery
- Vaccine delivery Monday - Friday



# REMINDER

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December 07, 2020

# More Information

## **Website for Providers:**

[www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/provider-information.aspx](http://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 or

Email: [COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov)

## **Website to enroll as a COVID-19 provider:**

[EnrollTexasIZ.dshs.texas.gov](http://EnrollTexasIZ.dshs.texas.gov)

## **General Questions:**

Email: [COVIDvaccineQs@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:COVIDvaccineQs@dshs.texas.gov)