

The Jim Wells County Office of Emergency Management continues to work closely with its state Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) partners as the COVID-19 vaccination distribution continues.

Texas continues to receive doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, and is distributing statewide to hospitals, pharmacies, local health departments, freestanding ERs and other clinics.

Jim Wells County received 300 doses in the second week of the vaccine rollout. 200 of those doses went to the CHRISTUS Spohn Alice Hospital and 100 went to the Alice HEB Pharmacy. HEB is committed to following the CDC guidelines to follow the phase allocations that have been set. To schedule an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the HEB Pharmacy, health care providers with groups larger than 30 should e-mail wellnessservices@heb.com. Healthcare providers with groups smaller than 30 should contact their local HEB Pharmacy to schedule an appointment. The pharmacies will not accept walk ins.

Who can get vaccinated now?

· Our goal while vaccine supply is limited is to quickly vaccinate as many health care workers, residents of long-term care facilities, and people at risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 as possible. Vaccine providers are encouraged to prioritize health care workers but can start vaccinating people in Phase 1B if they have vaccine available after vaccinating all available and willing people in Phase 1A. DSHS has posted additional guidance for vaccine providers.

Who's getting the vaccine next and when?

Once all willing Phase 1A individuals have been vaccinated, Phase 1B recipients might be able to get the vaccine starting as early as December 28 and into January 2021. These include:

- People 65 years of age and older
- People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
 - Solid organ transplantation
 - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m² or higher)
 - Pregnancy
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
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When can everyone else get the vaccine?

Spring 2021 is the best estimate, but that may change. It depends on vaccine production and how quickly other vaccines become available.

Vaccine Availability

· Vaccine supply is still limited but new shipments of vaccine will arrive in Texas each week. · The Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations map shows the locations where vaccine has been sent. It will be updated weekly after the new shipments of vaccine have been shipped out to vaccine providers.

How do I find a place to get vaccinated?

- Health care workers in Phase 1A should contact their employer about getting vaccinated. Smaller health care facilities and medical offices can reach out to large vaccine providers to arrange for vaccination of their employees. Visit the Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations map to see which providers have received vaccine.
- People in Phase 1B may be able to get vaccinated now if vaccine providers have vaccine available after vaccinating all Phase 1A people. Visit the Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations map to see which providers have received vaccine and contact them to find out if you can make an appointment to get vaccinated. People can check the map weekly to determine if there is a vaccine provider near them.

Vaccine Safety

- Information gathered in large-scale clinical trials and thoroughly reviewed by scientists at the FDA shows that the vaccines are safe and effective.

Vaccine Cost

- The vaccine will be provided free of charge to anyone who wants it. For people with insurance, insurance will cover any fee to administer it by the provider. People without insurance won't be charged.

Can the vaccine be required?

- Getting vaccinated is voluntary, and people cannot be required to get the vaccine because it is being administered under an emergency use authorization, not as a fully licensed vaccine.

Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

- People still need to take precautions like physical distancing and wearing a mask to help stop the spread of COVID-19 as people get vaccinated and we learn more about the immunity produced by the vaccines.