

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
Accessibility and Disability Policy Webinar Series



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

COVID – 19 Vaccine Q&A

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presented by
Texas Department of State Health Services

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Is there a risk to getting the vaccine? How do the reported side-effects compare to the consequences of getting a COVID-19 infection?



Do we know if the vaccines prevent transmission of COVID to others?



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How long after my second dose will I achieve full immunity? Is it safe for me to go back out in the community?



If someone is high risk does that mean they're also high risk for a reaction to the vaccine?



Can my employer require me to get the vaccine and provide proof as terms of my employment? What if I work in healthcare?



How do we (hospital employer) manage the employees who refuse to get the COVID vaccination, as we have a mandated company policy (similar to flu vaccination requirements)?



How do we establish that the employee that refuses to get the COVID vaccination poses as a “direct threat” due to a “significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of the individual or others that cannot be eliminated or reduced by a reasonable accommodation”?



What is DSHS doing to make sure people with disabilities have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations? It would be great to see things like accessible sign-up sites, transportation to vaccine hubs, in-home vaccinations, targeted outreach to the disability community, etc.. Are there plans for any of these?



Will DSHS work with HHSC to produce more COVID-19 vaccination information videos in American Sign Language?



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I am deaf and use American Sign Language to communicate. What is in place to make sure I am able to communicate when I arrive for my shot? Is there a way for me to request an on-site ASL interpreter before my appointment?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBq-gJJ1rM0>



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I am blind and the information on vaccine sites the state provides is not accessible to me—displaying information on an image map is not accessible to screen readers. While an alternate Excel file is provided, that is not equivalent access. Will DSHS work with HHSC's Accessibility Team in their Civil Rights Office to create a fully accessible and searchable web page for vaccination site lookup?



I know you receive a packet of information from the CDC after you get your vaccine. Is Texas making sure this is available in alternate formats like large print, braille, Spanish, or ASL via a QR code link?



Will I have to pay for the vaccine?



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I have Medicaid. Can I use Medicaid transportation to get to a vaccine site?



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When will the vaccine be eligible to everyone in Texas? I have a disability but it does not fall in 1b.



What are some examples of a disability that would fall into group 1b? If I believe I am in 1b will I need to bring a doctor's note with me?



I am not a paid healthcare worker but I am the full-time caregiver for a family member who is high risk. Can I consider myself as qualifying in group 1a?



I work as a personal care attendant for someone with a disability who is high risk, do I qualify in group 1a?



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I know people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are one of the groups at highest risk of dying from COVID-19. What is the plan for vaccinating people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in the community in smaller group homes or with families?



My adult daughter has a neurological condition that caused quadriplegia. According to the DSHS questionnaire she qualifies in phase 1b, but Austin Public Health's sign up does not have a space where I can indicate that—all they have is a yes/no drop down for Down Syndrome. Because of this, we are routinely told she does not qualify when she really does. We have not been able to reach anyone at APH, even after I got a letter from her doctor stating she qualifies. She doesn't breathe easily, is antibiotic resistant, and receives an institutional level of care in the home where throughout the day people are near her face for lifting, transferring, and all activities of daily living. We have given up on APH and are looking for other providers. What can be done to make sure other families don't encounter this difficulty? My daughter clearly qualifies but we are struggling due to an inflexible intake form



I'm a special education teacher who works with students who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19. Will the state consider vaccinating teachers who work directly with these students? Would I count as group 1a?



I live in a county that is using a drive-up vaccination mega-site. Due to my disability, I do not drive and do not have access to someone with a car. Will there be a separate line at the drive-up sites for people who use public transportation? Using a rideshare would be prohibitively expensive



When vaccines were first released I was told I could go to my family doctor, but then they told me I had to go to a mega-vaccination site. Why did this change? Does the state plan to give any more doses to family doctors?



I've heard about the Save Our Seniors program where people will help interested homebound seniors get the vaccine at home. I have a disability and am homebound but am under 75, how can I sign up for this?



I read that West Virginia has vaccinated the most people per capita of any state, and that if they were a country they would be in the top three most successful in the world as far as vaccination rates. What can Texas learn from West Virginia and quickly implement to improve our vaccination rates?



How do you find us?

- Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

www.gov.texas.gov/disabilities

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- 512-463-5739 (V)
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