# COVID-19 Vaccine: Fact Sheet

## Key Assumptions for COVID-19 Vaccine Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assumption</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited doses are now available, but supply will increase in early 2021</td>
<td>Two vaccines available under Emergency Use Authorization issued by the FDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two doses from same manufacturer separated by 21 or 28 days, will be</td>
<td>Cold chain storage and handling requirements are likely to vary from refrigerated to ultra-cold frozen</td>
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<tr>
<td>needed for immunity for most COVID-19 vaccines</td>
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## Texas Guiding Principles to Vaccine Distribution

1. **Protecting health care workers** who fill a critical role in saving lives
2. **Protecting front-line workers** who provide critical services and are preserving the economy
3. **Protecting vulnerable populations** who are at greater risk of severe COVID-19 disease and death
4. **Mitigating health inequities** due to factors such as demographics, poverty and insurance status
5. **Data-driven allocations** that allow for flexibility for local conditions
6. **Geographic diversity** that considers balanced access in urban and rural areas
7. **Transparency** with the public and seeking public feedback

## COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP)

- Appointed panel of external and internal subject matter experts
- Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health
- Establish prioritization of critical populations for Phase 1 and Phase 2 distribution
- Weekly review of the data to guide allocation recommendations

### Weekly Allocation Process

1. **CDC Sends List to Vendor - Ships to Provider**
2. **DSHS Sends Information to CDC**
3. **DSHS Monitors Vaccine Availability**
4. **EVAP - Reviews Recommendations and Makes Their Own**
5. **DSHS Commissioner - Makes Final Allocation Decision**
6. **CDC Recommendation & Vaccine Availability**

## Quick Answers

**Who pays for the vaccine?**
- It’s free to everyone, federal government pays for it. Plus, providers can seek reimbursement from insurance for administering vaccine.

**Who can get vaccine?**
- Eventually everyone will. There is phased distribution, starting with health care staff and LTC residents.

**Is vaccine mandated?**
- No. It is voluntary.

**Do I need the vaccine if I’ve already had COVID-19?**
- Yes. Immunity from vaccine may last longer than natural immunity.

**Do I still need to wear mask, social distance if I’ve had the vaccine?**
- Yes. We don’t know if the vaccine prevents you from spreading the virus.

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Visit dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine for Vaccine Dashboard & more