

Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities serve populations particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection. LTC residents, and those who care for them, are considered a priority for vaccination in Texas' strategy against the COVID pandemic. They are categorized as Phase 1A in the Texas vaccination plan and are eligible to receive vaccinations.

Eligible Individuals include:

Residents and the LTC Staff working directly with these vulnerable residents in nursing facilities; assisted living facilities; state supported living centers (SSLCs); community-based intermediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition (ICFs/IID) regardless of size; and small group home residence settings (three- and four-person residences) that are owned and operated by a certified Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Medicaid Waiver Program provider.

Eligible facilities include:

- Nursing Facilities
- Assisted-Living Facilities
- State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)
- Community-based intermediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition (ICFs/IID) regardless of size
- Small group home residence settings (three- and four-person residences) that are owned and operated by certified Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Medicaid Waiver Program providers.

Providers include:

- Direct Care Providers
- Physicians
- Nurses
- Personal Care Assistants
- Direct Care Staff
- Custodial
- Food Service Staff

Any DSHS authorized vaccine provider in Texas may vaccinate any of the above facilities or individuals without need for specific state permission.

The Federal-Pharmacy Program is currently closed to new enrollments. Facilities enrolled have been contacted by the CDC and were matched with large pharmacy chains to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine needs for both facility staff and residents. The state has limited involvement in this program.

LTC residents and staff, along with outside organizations that assist in caring for these vulnerable individuals, have the following options available as the Federal Pharmacy Program is now closed.

Option 1:

Enroll as a Texas Vaccine Provider with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to directly receive and administer the vaccine. How to become a COVID-19 Vaccinator, enrollment and requirements can be found here: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/provider-enrollment.aspx>

Option 2:

Partner with vaccinators with whom there is an existing vaccination relationship (i.e. for those who provide flu shots, shingles, etc., to the facility or group.)

Note: Partner must be enrolled and approved with Texas as a Covid-19 Vaccine Provider

- Facility to contact provider directly to arrange on-site vaccination of your staff and residents
- Vaccine will be shipped directly to approved Covid-19 Vaccine Provider (facilities will not receive shipments)

Option 3:

Contact local vaccine providers to include local or regional health departments, EMS, or pharmacies. As more vaccine becomes available, local providers will have greater flexibility in vaccine acquisition and distribution.

To find a potential vaccine provider:

<https://tdem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3700a84845c5470cb0dc3ddace5c376b>

To find your public health service provider:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/>

General Information regarding vaccine is contained at:

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

Option 4

If LTC's are unable to find a solution or have questions an email can be sent to: Vaccine.LTCF@dshs.texas.gov

Subject Line: "LTC Unable to Find Vaccine Provider"

The state has limited vaccination capabilities beyond what is previously noted, however, will use this information in matching facilities when able.

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