

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is the agency responsible for overseeing the decision-making and distribution related to vaccinations in Texas. Please visit its [COVID-19 Vaccine Information webpage](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination information. For general COVID-19 vaccine information, please visit the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) Vaccines webpage](#).

TEA is providing this FAQ as a resource to school systems that are interested in the impact the vaccine might have on their respective school systems.

1. When will teachers be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to qualifying providers across the state who will administer these immunizations based on the [Vaccine Distribution Principles](#) developed by the state's [Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel](#) (EVAP). At this time, TEA does not have any information beyond what has already been publicly shared. When further updates are available on which groups of individuals will next be eligible to receive the vaccine, we will join other Texas state agencies in promoting that information.

School nurses ARE eligible for vaccination as part of [Phase 1A](#). At this time, educators and school staff *as a profession* are NOT eligible for vaccination, however, educators and school staff who meet the eligibility requirements laid out in [Phase 1B](#) which includes people 65 years of age and older and 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 are eligible.

If you do meet the eligibility requirements, a list of vaccine providers that have received the vaccine is available on the [Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Location site](#).

2. I am eligible to receive the vaccine, is there a cost associated with obtaining the vaccine?

No. The recipient of the vaccine will not be required to pay any out of pocket expense to obtain the vaccine. Please see the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) FAQ](#) related to paying for the COVID-19 vaccine for more general information.

3. Can a school district require an eligible educator to receive the vaccine?

The current COVID-19 vaccination process will be voluntary and left up to each individual to determine if it is the right course of action for that individual to take. The current COVID-19 vaccines were authorized under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA); therefore vaccination cannot be required by employers. Once a vaccine is formally approved by the FDA, employers may choose to require employees to obtain that vaccine.

4. Will schools be used as vaccination administration sites?

The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to qualifying facilities, organizations or healthcare providers licensed to possess or administer vaccine or provide vaccination services who will administer these vaccines. At this point, schools have not been identified as vaccine administration sites, and school staff are not responsible for administering vaccines.