

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?

Please see the [Department of State Health Services School and Child Care Personnel Now Eligible To Be Vaccinated](#) release for more information on school personnel vaccine eligibility.

2. I work at a school and am trying to locate a vaccine. Where can I obtain that information? **NEW March 18, 2021**

The Department of State Health Services and the Texas Division of Emergency Management have a [Texas COVID 19 Vaccine Availability map](#). You may also access the list of [vaccine hubs](#) and check their website for vaccine availability.

3. 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 expenses 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.

4. 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.

This guidance reflects the position of DSHS and is provided by TEA solely as an information resource for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. A school district or open-enrollment charter school should confer with its own legal counsel regarding any questions it may have regarding this guidance.

5. Can a school district ask a teacher if they have been vaccinated? NEW March 18, 2021

School districts should reach out to their legal counsel to determine potential legal implications of requesting this information, including issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

6. Can my school system become an approved COVID-19 Vaccine Provider to administer vaccines directly to our school personnel?

The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to qualifying facilities, organizations, and healthcare providers licensed to possess or administer vaccines or provide vaccination services. School systems should review [How to Become a Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider](#) if they are interested in applying to become a COVID-19 vaccination provider.

7. I'm an approved COVID-19 Vaccine Provider but have questions about my allocation. Who do I contact? NEW March 18, 2021

Please ensure you have reviewed the [Vaccine Provider FAQ](#) from the Department of State Health Services. If you still have questions after review, please email COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov or call 877-835-7750.