



COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Plan



November 7, 2020

Purpose

Provides a vaccine distribution framework for San Antonio, Bexar County to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths, and to help restore community and societal functioning.



Equity

- Includes an equity approach and gives priority to marginalized communities who lack access to healthcare services and who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Uses the [Office of Equity Atlas](#) and current COVID-19 case and mortality data to prioritize populations most at risk.



Key Assumptions for COVID-19 Vaccine



Limited doses may be available in December or January, but **supply will increase substantially in 2021**



Initial supply will either be **approved as a licensed vaccine** or **authorized for use under an EUA** issued by the FDA



Cold chain storage and handling requirements are likely to vary from **refrigerated to ultra-cold frozen**



Two doses, separated by ≥ 21 or 28 days, will be **needed for immunity** for most COVID-19 vaccines

Source: CDC



Critical Populations – Vaccine Distribution

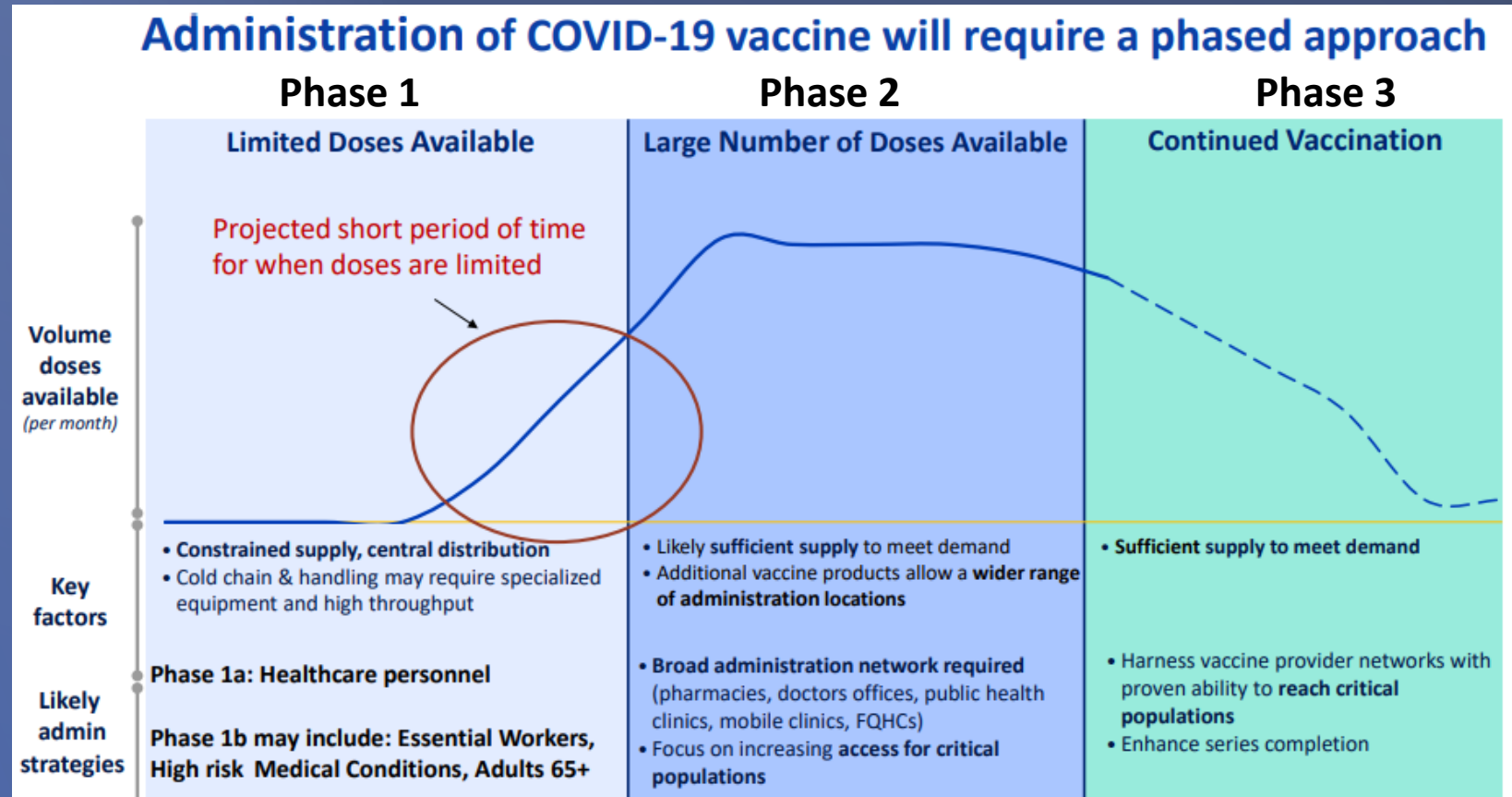
CDC Critical Populations for COVID-19 Vaccine

Critical infrastructure/ Essential workers	People living in group settings	People at high risk for severe illness or COVID-19 impact	People with limited access to vaccination services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthcare workers (ex: frontline or inpatient hospital, long-term care or direct care to people at high risk, EMS, pharmacy, public health)• Critical Infrastructure (ex: public safety, fire, education, food and agriculture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People who are incarcerated or detained• Multigenerational households• State-supported living centers or state hospitals• People experiencing homelessness or living in shelters• Colleges and universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing home, long-term care residents• ≥65 years old• High-risk medical conditions• People who are disproportionately affected because of race, ethnicity or tribal affiliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural or medically underserved communities• People with disabilities that make it difficult for them to access healthcare• Adults who are uninsured or under-insured

Recommendations for prioritization of these populations for early vaccination are still in development.

Phased Approach – Vaccine Distribution

- Phase 1: Low vaccine supply
 - Focus on the vaccination and outreach of critical populations.
- Phase 2: Vaccine supply increases
 - Vaccination efforts will be expanded to additional critical populations and vaccine made available through more healthcare providers in the area.
- Phase 3: Wide supply of vaccine
 - Make widely available through various public/private healthcare organizations.



Source: CDC

Vaccination Implementation Planning Committee



- Led by City's Office of Emergency Management and Metro Health
 - Several stakeholders are part of the City's Office of Emergency Management, Coordination and Information Sharing (EMCIS) group.
- Utilize CDC and State guidance to set priorities within identified Critical Population Groups.
- Determine the populations to include in each Phase of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- Use an equity approach, prioritize marginalized communities who lack access to healthcare services and who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Vaccine Implementation Planning Committee



Invited Organizations

Bexar Health Coalition; Bexar County Health Collaborative
IZSA (Immunize San Antonio Coalition)
University Health
Wellmed
South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC)
Centro Med
Communicare
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Daughters of Charity
Pharmacies
Haven for Hope
South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (Continuum of care for all homeless providers)
American College of Healthcare Administrators (Texas chapter)--long term care facility administrators
Family Violence Prevention Services
Large Businesses, Chambers of Commerce, San Antonio SPURS
Community First Health Plans
Superior Health Plans
Humana
Region XX
Head Start Program
Colleges and Universities

Bexar County Correctional Facilities
CoSA Faith Based Liaison
American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions
BEAT AIDS
SanArte
Metro Health Equity Officer / Office of Equity
Thrive Youth Center
City Immigrant Liaison
Asian American Alliance of SA
YWCA
Presentation Ministry Center
Domesticas Unidas
Culturingua (Mid. East/Nth. African)
RAICES (Undocumented)
Center for Refugee Services (Refugees)
Catholic Charities of San Antonio
Indian Association of San Antonio
Congolese Community of SA
Pakistani American Association of SA
MEHR Foundation (Iranian)
Raindrop Foundation San Antonio
ImmSchools
UTSA Dreamer Resource Ctr.
Suenos Sin Fronteras of Tejas

SA Stands
Muslim Children Education and Civic Center (MCECC)
Dream Voice
El Bari Clinic
Refugee Clinic
Respite Care
Autism Community Network
DisAbilitySA
Deaflink
Center for Healthcare Services
COSA Disability Access Office
Family Service Association
San Antonio Food Bank
Meals on Wheels
Esperanza Center
Texas Organizing Project
Pride Center
Boys and Girls Clubs
YMCA

Provider Outreach and Registration

- Identify potential COVID-19 vaccine providers in San Antonio/Bexar County.
- Engage providers and link them to the State registration portal and support their efforts by providing vaccination information and technical assistance.
- Share registration information with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program local provider network of over 150 members, the EMCIS collaborative, Bexar County Medical Association, and other healthcare working groups and associations, reaching several hundred potential COVID vaccine providers.
- Vaccine will be distributed from manufacturer to registered vaccine providers.

COVID-19 Vaccine Management

Ensure vaccine providers follow CDC Requirements:

- (1) Storage and handling under proper conditions, including maintaining cold chain conditions and chain of custody in accordance with the manufacturer's and CDC guidance;
- (2) Monitor vaccine-storage-unit temperatures using equipment and practices that comply with guidance in CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit;
- (3) Comply with guidance for dealing with temperature excursions;
- (4) Monitor and comply with COVID-19 Vaccine expiration dates; and
- (5) Preserve all records related to COVID-19 Vaccine management as required by State law.



COVID-19 Vaccine Management

- Initial vaccines will require a two-dose series with varying intervals between the two doses.
 - A person who receives a first dose of one vaccine, must get the second dose of that same formulation.
- Metro Health will maintain real-time data access to the State of Texas ImmTrac2 System to log individual vaccinations from Metro Health vaccination activities.
 - Metro Health will have access to the State Vaccine Allocation and Ordering System (VAOS).
- State reports will include information from local providers.
 - The information will be used during outreach for second-dose reminders using texts, emails, and letters.



Communications

- Use messages with attention to health equity, cultural/linguistic competency, literacy, and accessibility.
- Include input from the COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Planning Committee and Community Response Coalition's, Education Workgroup.
- Initiate messaging before vaccines are available in San Antonio/Bexar County.
- Work with trusted community partners to share COVID-19 vaccine messaging.
 - Promote messaging through Community Health Workers.
- Understand vaccine hesitancy and share where to find reliable information about vaccines.
- Inform the public on critical populations for each phase and seek input to prioritize vaccine distribution.

COVID-19 Vaccine Reporting

- Metro Health will use the State's ImmTrac2 and VAOS systems to report and track vaccine data including doses administered, wasted, transferred and to document receipt of vaccine shipments.
- A quality assurance review of data will be conducted periodically to monitor and address provider registration issues and reporting lags in San Antonio/Bexar County.
 - Metro Health will also follow-up on technical questions/issues identified or reported by providers.
- Metro Health will closely monitor individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccine for any adverse reactions to the vaccine.
 - Healthcare providers are required by federal law to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).
- Additional reporting requirements for adverse events may apply for COVID-19 vaccines. It is possible that COVID-19 vaccines will be authorized under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and if this is the case, providers and public health entities involved in vaccine administration will provide the required FDA-authorized *EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients* to individuals receiving the vaccine.

Implementation

Ensure equity across implementation activities

- **Community Conversations**
 - Communicate information on COVID-19 vaccines.
 - With an initial limited supply of vaccine, seek community input to determine priority populations.
- **Vaccine Providers**
 - Promote vaccine registration and work to ensure adherence to vaccine management requirements.
 - Coordinate vaccine distribution especially in marginalized communities.