

## Houston Health Department Executive Summary

The Houston Health Department’s (HHD) COVID-19 plan aims to prepare, detect, respond to and mitigate pandemic COVID-19 by way of adding immunizations to the existing mitigation strategies. The intent is to stop, slow, and limit the pandemic; reduce the spread of disease, decrease suffering and death, sustain infrastructure and mitigate impact to the economy and the functioning of the city.

### Priority Populations

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Essential Healthcare Workers in healthcare facilities	People of all ages with comorbid or underlying condition with moderate risks	Restaurant and hotel workers, entertainment industry
First Responders, Public Health, Pharmacists	Uninured/Underinsured adults	College students and staff
People at increased risk for severe COVID-19	School administrator, teachers and staff	Beauty and barber industry workers
	Individuals in congregate settings and other essential workers (i.e. grocery stores, meat packing companies)	

**Provider Recruitment** - HHD began outreach and recruitment to potential COVID-19 vaccination providers on 10/6/20 and will focus on enrolling appropriate sites to ensure the availability of COVID-19 vaccine for target populations. Providers/settings with high target populations will be prioritized for enrollment. HHD is also working closely with long-term care facilities (LTCF) to provide education and information on the pharmacy partnership to ensure residents and staff of LTCFs have access to vaccines as early as possible. Additionally, HHD will send recruitment enrollment information through existing network of providers such as the Texas Medical Association, FQHC, CHC, Texas VFC and hospital system networks. Weekly, HHD will map existing provider networks to determine areas of opportunities for recruitment. HHD will also meet weekly to update provider administration capacity to ensure equitable access to eligible populations.

**Safety Net** – HHD is preparing to serve as a safety net provider by working with local partners to staff and operate up to 3 mass vaccination clinics with capacity to serve up to 500 patients daily as vaccine demand and supply dictates. HHD is increasing vaccine administration capacity at each of 4 Health Centers and various multiservice centers throughout the city to add additional capacity as needed.

**Doses Administered** – All COVID-19 doses administered must be reported within 24 hours to the statewide immunization registry, ImmTrac2. HHD staff will conduct outreach calls and provide technical assistance to newly enrolled providers.

**Second Dose Reminder** – HHD Registry personnel is working to establish routine reporting that will enable universal second dose reminder/recall.

**Provider Education/Information** – HHD is working to ensure providers are made aware of various training offerings by DSHS and CDC on topics such as vaccine safety/efficacy, storage and handling, vaccine administration and ImmTrac2.

**Public Communication** – HHD’s plans to use a data driven approach to communication. Traditional media outlets such as radio and TV will be onboarded in addition to utilizing community partners and existing staff to conduct community canvassing as vaccine becomes more readily available.