



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER, 5TH FLOOR
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
COMMISSIONER

March 8, 2021

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration in Tennessee

Dear hospital leaders:

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to providing care for Tennesseans and for all you have done to assist with vaccinating those most at risk of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. Together, we have decreased the burden of COVID-19 on hospitals significantly over the past few months and have vaccinated close to 1 million Tennesseans against this disease.

As we begin to see increasing supplies of COVID-19 vaccines in Tennessee, we have announced the opening of Phase 1c effective Monday, March 8, 2021. That means millions of Tennesseans who suffer from chronic health conditions, including obesity, hypertension, asthma, diabetes, immune system compromise and others, as well as pregnant women and their household contacts, will now be eligible to receive a vaccine.

We recognize that your own patient populations include scores of patients who will now be eligible for vaccination in Phase 1c, and we recognize this opportunity for you to provide your patients with the comprehensive care they trust. Thus, effective today, TDH will no longer require hospitals to engage in specific community outreach in order to receive vaccines. For health systems electing to continue offering vaccines to non-patients, we applaud and appreciate your efforts in serving your communities.

Each of your primary COVID-19 vaccine contacts should have received a survey link on Friday, March 6, 2021 which allows them to request COVID-19 vaccines for your organization. This new process will replace the process currently used by THA to communicate requests to TDH on behalf of the hospitals and will streamline the process of requesting vaccines, while also improving transparency. While the vaccine supply is still somewhat limited, TDH has continued to see steady increases in state-level allocations which will positively impact our ability to send vaccines to you, as requested. We greatly appreciate your patience as we have waited for supply to increase to meet demand.

All other requirements for hospitals receiving vaccine, including only immunizing those eligible according to your county's current phase (<https://covid19.tn.gov>), remain in place.

Thank you again for your persistent work to ensure the health of Tennesseans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Piercey".

Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP
Commissioner