



A. D. Bush
Taylor County Emergency Management Coordinator

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2021

To: Media Advisory

Covid-19 Vaccinations

There seems to be a lot of confusion and frustration in our county, and the news media concerning the availability and speed of the public receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

AT THIS MOMENT January 8, 2021 in Taylor County all of the initial 600 doses that the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District has received, have been given to the state mandated recipients and those recipients will receive the 2nd required shot on time.

AT THIS MOMENT all of the initial, approximately 3000 doses that Hendrick Health Systems (Hospital) has received have been given to the state mandated recipients, and those initial recipients are at this time receiving the 2nd required dose.

Nine Hendrick Clinic primary care physicians in Abilene have received 300 doses of vaccine. These doses have been allocated for established patients who are community healthcare workers or those over 65 years of age, in accordance with the State regulations.

Other vaccine providers in our area include State selected privately owned pharmacies and clinics that the County has **no** control over and they DO NOT report the availability, or lack thereof to COUNTY government or to the Health Department.

State Controlled Nursing Homes and Prisons are also being serviced by state resources and officials

IN THE NEAR FUTURE (weeks) both Hendrick and the Health Department will receive more allocated doses.

These vaccines will be made available to the public, and allocated IN ACCORDANCE with the State of Texas MANDATED PLAN.

Vaccine supplies and distribution has been slower than anticipated in some areas of Texas, but I want to assure our citizens that as soon as the doses of vaccine are received here in Taylor county, The Abilene Taylor County Public Health District and the Hospitals have a great and proven plan/procedures that are in place and THIS PLAN is working very well to get the vaccine into people's arms very quickly.

THERE IS NO STOCK PILE OF VACCINE IN TAYLOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT OR THE HOSPITALS

I want to address the reason that some people are having trouble contacting the Health Department by phone. Interest in the vaccine has dramatically increased.

Our very well run Health Department is being inundated with telephone calls about the vaccine. Operators at the Health Department are moving as quickly as they can, answering questions, easing people's minds, and still doing the very necessary work that they do every day.

Those interested in signing up to receive a vaccination from the Health Department can find the latest information and forms from the Abilene/Taylor County Public District at:

<https://www.abilenetx.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=762>

The department is asking adult children to please help their elderly parents and grandparents and fill out the form on their behalf.

For those that do not have someone who can help them with the form, the ATCPHD is taking those calls at the Health Department (**again there may be a very long wait to get through**) and adding the caller's name and contact number to a call log and having staff call them to fill out the form for them over the phone.

The Health Department, due to the volume of calls has added additional assistance from the police and fire departments, airport, and public library to return calls and complete the forms. Call volume will temporarily exceed the availability of someone to immediately answer questions.

If you call the Health Department and no one answers, try to call back later.

Again, forms and instructions are available at the website below. Elderly persons will need to fill out the form under 1B.

Thank you for your patience.

<https://www.abilenetx.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID-762>

For additional information, refer to the DSHS website at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine