

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

January 14, 2021 / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Via WebEx/Teleconference

Meeting called by:	Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 105 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force	
Facilitator:	Elizabeth Hart, Associate Director, Office of Communication and Media Relations	

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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Summary: We are going to start things off with a quote from Ellen Goodman, a journalist. “We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential.”

A few housing keeping rules to remember, please keep phones and computers muted during the meeting. If you have a question, feel free to enter it in the chat box. Today’s focus is going to be all about COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Focus: COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Presenter: Dr. Michelle Fiscus, Medical Director, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program, Tennessee Department of Health

Summary: A reminder, the Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination plan is online at www.tn.gov/health. Click the gold bar at the top of the site. Then, scroll to the blue tile with a blue shield labeled “COVID-19 Vaccine Information.” You can click the tile and find the latest draft of Tennessee’s vaccination plan along with some other resources. This plan is updated

on a regular basis as information changes. The next update to the plan will be sometime next week. We have already had a lot of success with our vaccination plan. There are 64 jurisdictions that submitted plans to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Tennessee's plan was picked out of the 64 plans as having a plan with most attention to equity. MIT and UPenn are going to be working with us to "elevate our plan to the global stage." We were also singled out as one of the five states vaccinating the fastest, per CDC. We have delivered 51% of our received doses. Tennessee accounts for 3.1% of U.S. doses administered and we only represent about 2% of the population. We also had more than 200,000 vaccines in arms within 21 days (including 4 holidays). There has been no significant wastage. When we receive word that a vaccine is going to be lost because of running out of time, we setup PODs (points of dispensing) to avoid these vaccine losses. We have done this on two occasions thus far. PODs are in all 95 counties. We issued 26,521 vaccinations by public health in one day. This is more than twice the number of vaccines that public health has administered in a single day. There are a lot of successful drive-through vaccinations models across the State. We have received recognition from the Washington Post and Boston Globe for our equity lens found in our vaccination plan.

Our vaccine allocation phases were created to ensure no population has trouble accessing the vaccine because of their social vulnerability, social economic status or geography. There is a timeline which is a guess based on what we know right now. We know we have two difference vaccines and we receive approximately 80,000 doses of that vaccine weekly into the state. If we receive more vaccines, then of course this timeframe will accelerate; however, if a factory or something happens with doses being receive than this timeframe would per those circumstances. There are two risk-based structures we use to determine who gets vaccinate first while doses are limited. First, the 1A population which would include inpatient/outpatient healthcare workers, residents of staff of long-term care facilities, and First Responders. The next phase starts to get closer to the population at large. This phase will first start issuing vaccine to critical infrastructure workers. This is industries where we cannot run the State without them. This includes those working in childcare and schools, moderate risk comorbidities, 65-year-old adults or older, congregate care, and then correction system. Once these individuals have been vaccinated.

In each population group, vaccine access should be prioritized for geographic areas identified through CDC's Social Vulnerability Index or another more specific index.

Please refer to Vaccine Allocation Phases below for more details on additional phases to be vaccinated.

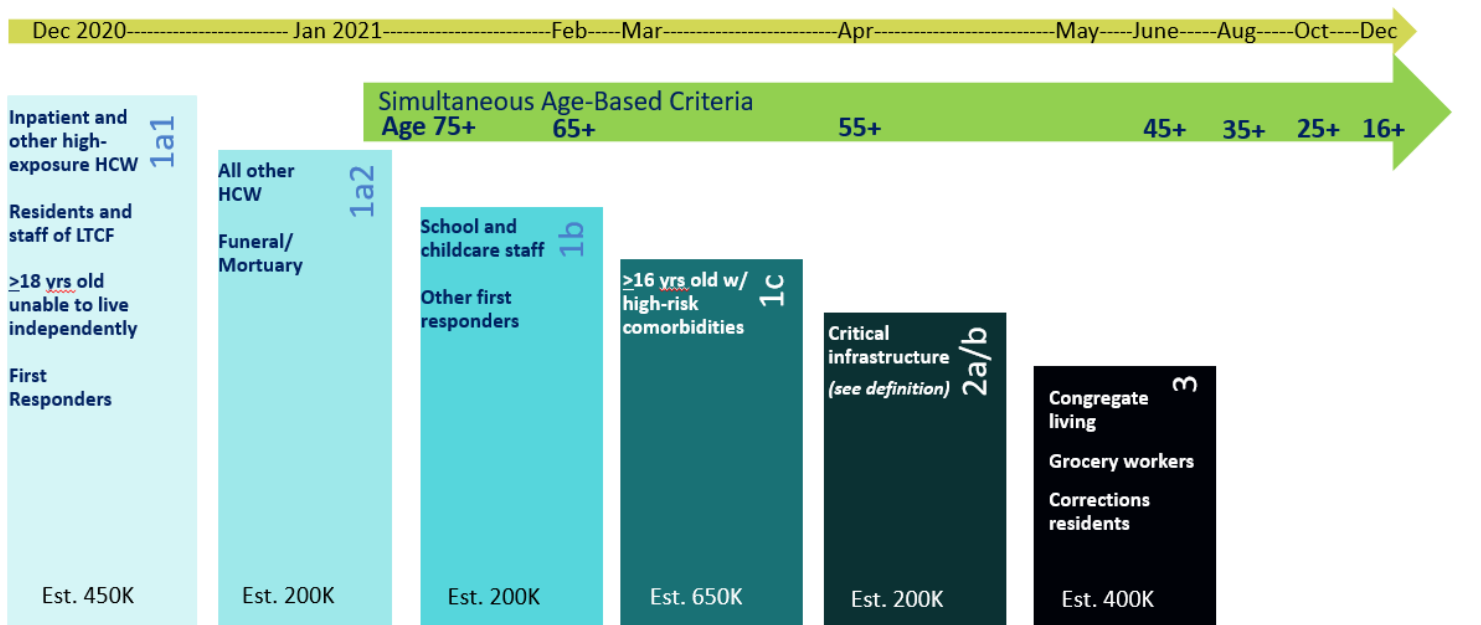


Chart of vaccine allocations and roll-outs below.

	December	January	February	March
Total Doses Received	382,650	184,850+	TBD	TBD
Positioning	Hospitals (65%) Health Depts (35%) *Federal LTCF Partnership	Health Depts (67%) Hospitals (32%) Indy LTCF (1%) *Federal LTCF Partnership Indy Pharmacies (0%)	Wal-Mart Pharmacies (High SVI first) Health Depts Safety Net (Low SES first) Hospitals Indy Pharmacies	Federal Pharmacy Program? TBR Partnership? Wal-Mart Pharmacies Safety Net Indy Pharmacies Medical Clinics Health Departments Hospitals

*Federal LTCF partnership allocations are taken off the top of the state allocation

Later this month we hope to start pushing some vaccines out to independent pharmacies that serve larger vulnerable populations or those who do not have a hospital. Once we hit February, everything is sort of a guess. Right now, we are receiving about 80,000 doses of the vaccine a week. It sounds like a lot, but it is not. We have 95 counties, so that is less than 1,000 doses per county per week. We have very large metros and large hospitals systems which can vaccinate about 10,000 people a week. These are very small allocations which are based on the population of the county, with exceptions to counties which have a high social vulnerability index. These counties are already under a lot of stress and really need assistance and a little more protection quickly. The Biden administration plans is to release all the doses that have been held back. There is some talk around the of production of doses being increase but we do not know what that looks like or when they will hit. We are planning for a partnership with Wal-Mart, so we can start making vaccinations more available at its locations. There are 150 stores across the state, we want to start in distressed counties. There are 29 counites with high social vulnerability index and all but 8 of them have a Wal-Mart store. Additionally, we want to get vaccinations to some of our Safety Net Providers which are in zip codes of lower social economic status populations or zip codes which some other type of indicator of distress. We will be sending vaccines to all Health Departments. Possibly in March, the Federal Government will roll-out a Federal Pharmacy Program. That would include about 19 chain pharmacies such as Walgreens, CVS, etc. which will offer COVID-19 vaccines. We believe there might be two more vaccines approved in March if things continue to move along. Those vaccines would be provided through Johnson and Johnson and Astra Zeneca. All vaccines are free.

Vaccines currently in progress include the following:

- Astra Zeneca/University of Oxford (replication defective vector)
 - 28 days between doses
 - Chimpanzee adenovirus vector causes production of spike protein
 - Refrigerated
- Jansen/Johnson & Johnson (replication defective vector)
 - Single dose (but now has a 2-dose, 57-day study, as well)
 - Adenovirus vector
 - Frozen storage, -20°C
- Novavax (adjuvanted protein subunit vaccine)
 - 21 weeks between doses

- Insect baculovirus infects moth cells
- Refrigerated
- Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (adjuvanted protein subunit vaccine)
 - Insect baculovirus
 - Similar to FluBlok vaccine

You can get more information at www.tn.gov/health.

Frequently Asked Questions - COVID-19 Vaccine

- Where is the vaccine?
 - Some hospitals
 - All 95 health departments
- Where is the vaccine going?
 - Select Wal-Mart stores Feb 1, 2021
 - Local pharmacies in distressed counties in the next two weeks
 - FQHCs and Community Health Centers in certain neighborhoods based on SES as supply allows
- When can I get the vaccine?
 - <https://covid19.tn.gov> for the phase tool
- How can I get the vaccine?
 - Call your local HD or visit <https://covid19.tn.gov>

Upcoming COVID-19 Testing

- Saturday, January 23, 2021, 12:00pm-4:00pm (CST)
 - Rutherford County
 - Una Esperanza Viva Murfreesboro, 855 W. College St., Suite P., Murfreesboro, TN 37129
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Resources mentioned during call:

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan - www.tn.gov/health

Governor's Site - [Tennessee COVID-19 Information Hub \(tn.gov\)](http://Tennessee COVID-19 Information Hub (tn.gov))

[County Vaccine Information - TN COVID-19 Hub](#)

County Phase - PDF



County Phase
Status.pdf

Vaccination Progress - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

COVID-19 Toll Free Information Line - 877-857-2945

Preferences for Priority Workgroup Participation- [Doodle Poll Link](#)

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 1pm-2pm via WebEx.

Meeting password: Health

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