

This document provides information about Tennessee's planning and implementation efforts for COVID-19 vaccine allocation and distribution.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- TDH updates guidance for long-term care facility visitation
- TDH investigates COVID-19 vaccine wastage
- Tennessee begins vaccinating residents age 65+ and Phase 1b
- Tennessee sees increased COVID-19 vaccine supply

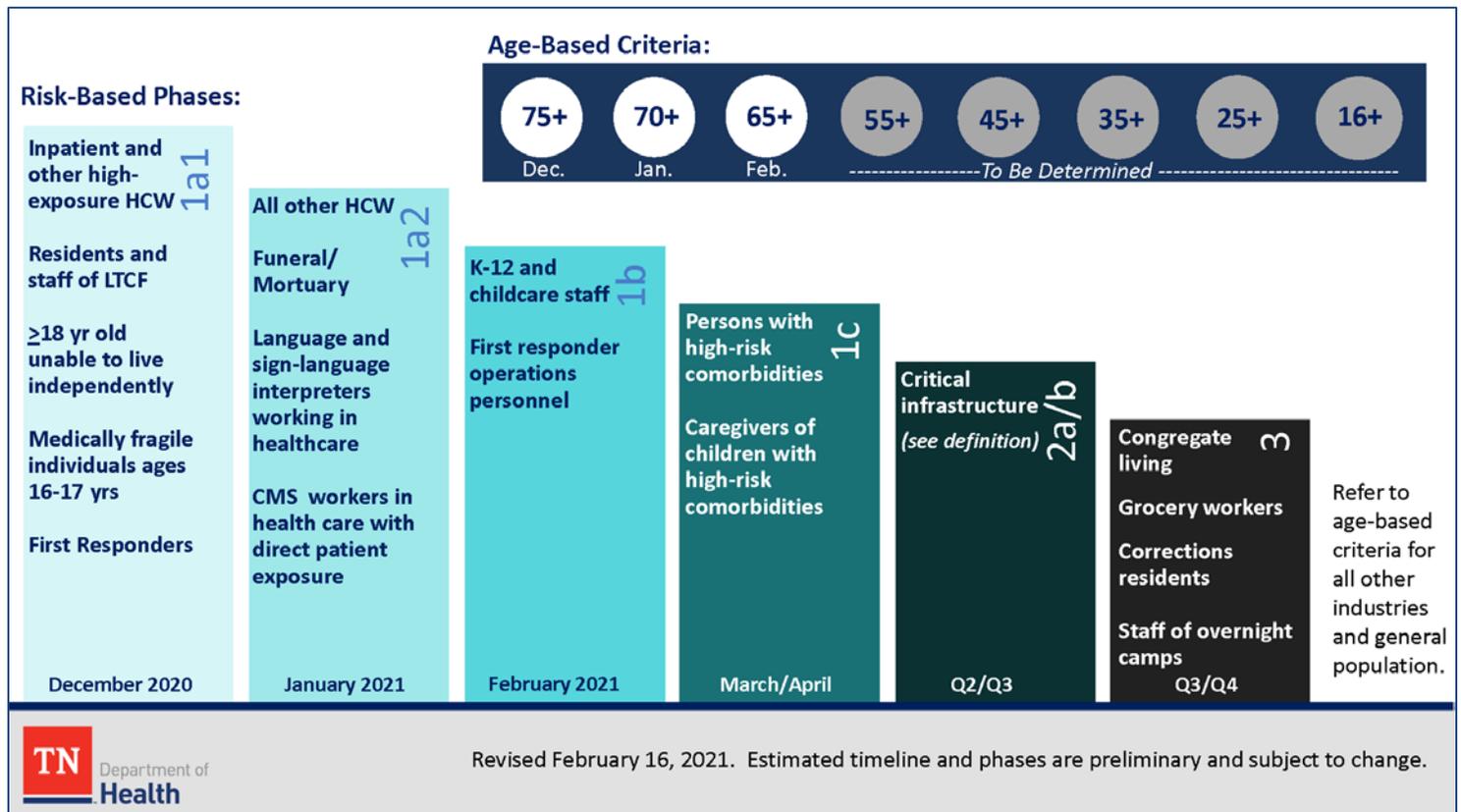
CURRENT EFFORTS

- TDH [announced](#) Feb. 24 that state-specific visitation restrictions for long-term care facilities will end effective February 28, 2021.
- Tennessee long-term care facilities should use the federal [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Visitation Guidance](#) for safe operation and visitation. Per this guidance, nursing homes may allow indoor visitation when there has been no new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and the facility is not currently conducting outbreak testing.
- Even as COVID-19 case counts decline, long-term care facilities should remain vigilant in monitoring for COVID-19 cases among residents and staff members through appropriate screening and testing. Facilities may test visitors, which is encouraged, but not required. [Additional resources on infection control practices](#) are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- On February 19, the Shelby County Health Department reported more than 1,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were discarded due to expiration. The Governor's Unified Command Group immediately deployed state health personnel to provide support, review handling procedures and assess the SCHD's inventory of vaccines.
- TDH has identified a total of seven incidents of vaccine waste in Shelby County amounting to more than 2,400 wasted doses. The investigation is ongoing.
- TDH has embedded personnel at SCHD for technical assistance and monitoring of their pharmacy operation, and has requested on-site assistance from the CDC.
- Vaccine distribution and administration will continue as scheduled, and Shelby County will continue to receive the full population-based allocation of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Tennesseans aged 65 and older and those in Phase 1b of the state's [COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#) are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Phase 1b includes teachers and staff members of kindergarten through 12th grade schools and child care facilities and operations personnel of first responder agencies.
- Tennesseans eligible for COVID-19 vaccination can visit [Vaccinate.tn.gov](#) to book their appointment for vaccination at their county health department. Information on other vaccination locations in the community is available at <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccination-locations/>.
- Tennessee is rapidly vaccinating those at highest risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. To date, nearly 787,000 Tennesseans have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. More than 137,600 vaccinations were provided in the past week.
- More than 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered to Tennessee providers.
- Tennessee continues to see vaccine allocations increase each week. Tennessee received an increase of about 5,000 doses of Moderna vaccine this week.
- Nearly 411,000 Tennesseans are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- TDH holds a webinar for health care providers every Friday from noon – 1 p.m. Central time for providers to submit questions that are answered by the immunization program team. Learn more and register for the Feb. 26 webinar at www.tn.gov/content/tn/health/cedep/ncov/covid-19-webinars.html.

WHAT'S NEXT

- TDH anticipates emergency use authorization of additional COVID-19 vaccine products.
- Additional retail provider locations are being activated through federal partnerships to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.

TENNESSEE ALLOCATION TIMELINE & PHASES



BACKGROUND

- The Tennessee Department of Health developed [Tennessee's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#) after review of the CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdictional Operations](#), the recommendations of the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's [Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine](#), and in consultation with Tennessee's Unified Command Group and a stakeholder group of 30 partner organizations.
- The plan was updated Feb. 16, and is subject to change given private sector dynamics and decision-making at the federal level.
- Vaccine allocations to Tennessee's 95 counties are based on population and distributed to facilities in the county that are prioritized to receive vaccines for administration. Vaccines for second doses are automatically shipped to facilities that received vaccines to administer as first doses.
- Vaccine supplies remain limited, and availability varies by county. Tennessee counties may progress through COVID-19 vaccination phases at different times depending on supplies of vaccines. Tennesseans can learn what phase(s) their county is vaccinating at <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-phases/>.
- The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority, and the U.S. vaccine safety system ensures all vaccines are as safe as possible. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html.

RESOURCES

Find your Phase and request COVID-19 vaccination: <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-phases/>

Information on community pharmacies providing COVID-19 vaccinations: <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-community-pharmacy-vaccination-locations/>.

Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Dashboard:
www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/Vaccine.pdf

CMS Visitation Guidance: www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf

Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability information for older adults about COVID-19 vaccination:
www.tn.gov/aging/vaccines.html

AARP guide for getting your COVID-19 vaccination: <https://states.aarp.org/tennessee/covid-19-vaccine-distribution>

Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies transportation assistance:
<https://tnhra.org/services/transportation/>

FAQs on Tennessee's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan: www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/COVID-19_Vaccine_FAQ.pdf

COVID-19 Fact vs. Fiction Videos: <https://covid19.tn.gov/stay-informed/explainer-videos/>

Tennessee's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan: www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/COVID-19_Vaccination_Plan.pdf

CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>