

Lee County Vaccine Update

February 8, 2021

This is a weekly vaccine update to keep our citizens informed. The number of vaccines shipped to the State of Texas continues to fluctuate. Currently, vaccines are designated for front line health care workers and first responders in 1A and persons over 65 or persons with certain medical conditions in 1B. Pharmaceutical companies are working to expand their output. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two injections. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is in the final stages of FDA approval for a one-shot protection which may help alleviate vaccine shortages in the future.

Many of you know that Brookshire Brothers and Pieratt's Pharmacies have received a minimal number of vaccines for those in 1A and 1B categories. As of this moment, pharmacy doses are depleted. For those of you who have received the first injection from local pharmacies, they are allocated a matching number of doses to ensure you will get your second injections at the correct time. Both injections are required to build high-level immunity.

Currently, there are three vaccination hubs in surrounding counties. The Brenham hub is a drive through while the Bryan and Bastrop locations are walk-ins. All require prior registration. These hubs are very well organized and they are taking appointments from any Texas resident. However, their online registration portal is opened only until they have a sufficient number of persons registered to accommodate the number of vaccine doses they have. This keeps the registration list fresh to prevent double booking persons at multiple locations. This may require you to contact them repeatedly to register and get on their waiting list.

Lee County officials are in frequent communication with state officials, area hubs and local medical and pharmaceutical companies. It is the state that decides where and how the vaccines will be disseminated. At some point, these hubs will be giving an increasing number of first-shots plus the second-round injections which will essentially double their activity. As vaccines become more readily available there may be more options for Lee County residents. But, for now the only recourse for our citizens is to register with an area hub listed below and wait for an appointment call.

Bryan Hub:	https://stjoseph.stlukeshhealth.org/covidvaccine	The Brazos Center 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas
Brenham Hub:	https://localevent.info	Washington County Fairgrounds 1305 E. Blue Bell Road, Brenham, Texas
Bastrop Hub:	https://COVAC.info	A Plus Lifestyle Medical Group 815 Tx 71 West, Bastrop, Texas

Volunteers: Going forward, Lee County may be calling for a variety of volunteers. As of now, volunteers needed must be vaccinators who can travel to area hubs to assist with giving injections. If you are a qualified vaccinator please email frank.malinak@co.lee.tx.us or emc@co.lee.tx.us.

Call Center: Lee County Judge Paul Fischer has authorized a call center that will be staffed by volunteers. Hopefully the call center will be established with a dedicated telephone number by the end of the week. This call center will be a focal point for information as it becomes available from local physicians, medical offices and pharmacies as well as when hubs are accepting registrations and anything associated with coronavirus vaccinations. The call center will also accept information from persons wishing to volunteer when needed. The latest on the call center will be available on Lee County's website, www.co.lee.tx.us.