

COVID-19 Critical Population Update

Phase 1A Healthcare Workers Definition – First Tier

1. Hospital staff working directly with patients who are positive or at high risk for COVID-19. Includes:
 - a. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.)
 - b. Additional clinical staff providing supporting laboratory, pharmacy, diagnostic and/or rehabilitation services
2. Long-term care staff working directly with vulnerable residents. Includes:
 - a. Direct care providers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and state supported living centers
 - b. Physicians, nurses, personal care assistants, custodial, food service staff
3. EMS providers who engage in 9-1-1 emergency services like pre-hospital care and transport
4. Home health care workers, including hospice care, who directly interface with vulnerable and high-risk patients
5. Residents of long-term care facilities



Texas Department of State
Health Services

COVID-19 Critical Population Update

Phase 1A Healthcare Workers Definition – Second Tier

1. Staff in outpatient care offices who interact with symptomatic patients. Includes:
 - a. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.).
 - b. Clinical staff providing diagnostic, laboratory, and/or rehabilitation services
 - c. Non 9-1-1 transportation for routine care
2. Direct care staff in freestanding emergency medical care facilities and urgent care clinics.
3. Community pharmacy staff who may provide direct services to clients, including vaccination or testing for individuals who may have COVID.
4. Public health and emergency response staff directly involved in administration of COVID testing and vaccinations.
5. Last responders who provide mortuary or death services to decedents with COVID-19. Includes:
 - Embalmers and funeral home workers who have direct contact with decedents
 - Medical examiners and other medical certifiers who have direct contact with decedents.
6. School nurses who provide health care to students and teachers.



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