

## Pre-Register for COVID-19 Vaccination

January 19, 2021

Folks who live in Bastrop County, and adjoining rural Texas counties, may now pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccination at a site provided by Bastrop County Cares. In the registration survey, you will answer some simple questions and give your contact information. You will be placed on a waiting list and called to set up an appointment as vaccine arrives. It is preferred that you register online at <https://COVAC.info>. If you do not have access to a computer or smart phone or tablet, you may call 866-268-2289 and leave a message with a contact number and a Bastrop County Cares volunteer will return your call to get your information. Everyone who pre-registers will be contacted for an appointment when vaccine is available.

Dr. Desmar Walkes, our Bastrop County Local Health Authority, has been designated by the Department of State Health Services as a HUB for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination. This means that the vaccine will be available to our residents, those in the adjoining counties of Lee, Fayette and Caldwell, and other rural counties in greater quantities. The pre-registration process will put you on a call list so that when vaccine is available to your group, you will be contacted for an appointment.

It is our primary objective to get everyone in Bastrop County, and other rural Central Texas counties, registered for the vaccine as soon as possible and to get vaccines administered to all our citizens within 90 days. We believe this is the quickest way to stop the pandemic locally and to save lives and the suffering of those who contract the virus. As of today, we have been given 1,000 doses of the vaccine to be distributed in a Point of Distribution (POD) Clinic later this week. Dr. Walkes has requested 10,000 doses to be made available as soon as possible, for larger POD clinics. So far, over 6,000 folks have pre-registered through COVAC.info.

Please remember that it takes two doses to be fully vaccinated. We ask each registrant to be aware of this requirement and commit to taking the second dose within the time designated (generally 3 or 4 weeks).

“This pre-registration is a positive step in getting the COVID-19 vaccine to everyone in Bastrop County as soon as it is available,” said Judge Paul Pape. “We are fortunate to be named a distribution HUB for the vaccines and want to be ready when supplies are available. My special thanks to Dr. Desmar Walkes, our Local Health Authority, and to Debbie Bresette, head of Bastrop County Cares, for their vision, leadership and work to get the HUB designation and this registration process in place for our region. Please pre-register today and you will be contacted you when it is your turn.”

The county pre-registration opportunity is not exclusive. Everyone should take advantage of every opportunity to get the vaccine as soon as possible. You may also want to register with your Primary Care Physician, if they are a vaccine provider, and with local pharmacies and others providers, in addition to COVAC.info. The objective is to get the vaccine to every citizen in Bastrop County and other counties as soon as possible.