



# Public Statement

## Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

### DSHS ANNOUNCES THAT ALL ADULTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE NEXT WEEK

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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**Austin, TX** – Today, Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville) issued the following press release regarding the expanded eligibility of the COVID-19 vaccine to all adults:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) announced today that all adults will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination on Monday, March 29. This decision comes as our state expects an increase in our vaccination supply over the coming weeks.

**"During a meeting with the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP) yesterday morning, I was pleased to recommend that DSHS open up the vaccine eligibility to every Texan,"** Lucio said. **"I want to see our kids back in school and want our teachers to feel comfortable in a safe school district."** Lucio added.

The announcement to open vaccine eligibility coincides with Texas closing in on administering 10 million doses. To date, 9.3 million Texans have been vaccinated -- six million Texans have received at least one dose and more than three million Texans have been fully vaccinated. While the eligibility will open up to all adults next week, DSHS will continue to prioritize vaccinations those who are at a greater risk of severe disease.

**"EVAP will continue to meet and work to check in on the vaccine distribution progress and will continue to advocate for vaccine access for every Texan that wants one. I would like to give a special thanks to Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, DSHS Commissioner John Hellerstedt, Associate Commissioner Imelda Garcia, Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, and the other members of EVAP for their leadership on this important issue,"** Lucio closed.

For more information on vaccine providers, visit [dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine](https://dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine).

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*Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D – Harlingen) represents Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance; Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education; Member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs; Natural Resources & Economic Development; of the Special Committee on Redistricting; and, of the Select Committee Texas Ports. He is member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Advisory Panel, and has been an ex-officio member of the DSHS Task Force of Border Public Health Officials since 2017. Elected in 1991, Lucio is third in seniority in the Texas Senate.*