



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- January 7, 2021

## **Nacogdoches Emergency Management Team Continues to Push for Community COVID-19 Vaccine Plan**

**NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS** -- The Nacogdoches joint emergency management team continues to fine tune its mass COVID-19 vaccination plan in preparation for a potential shift to a community based model.

Consulting with local healthcare partners, vaccine providers, and mass vaccination campaign experts, emergency management officials have developed a plan for large-scale vaccine distribution should the opportunity arise. At present time, approved individual healthcare providers receive vaccine directly from the State and are responsible for managing their own screening, scheduling, and vaccine administration plan.

Nacogdoches County Judge Greg Sowell reached out to representatives of Governor Greg Abbott's Office and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), requesting authorization to directly receive and distribute COVID-19 vaccines. "Our team is eager to implement our community vaccination plan," Sowell said. "We have the capability to provide more vaccines quickly and easily to those eligible to receive them."

2,700 doses of the Moderna vaccine have been shipped to seven local providers over the last few weeks. Brookshire Brothers Pharmacy, confined by logistical constraints, faced challenges in quickly distributing its vaccines despite a growing list of potential recipients. Nacogdoches County, the City of Nacogdoches, and the Stephen F. Austin State University's DeWitt School of Nursing offered to support the pharmacy in a walk-through shot clinic Thursday at the Nacogdoches County Civic Center. Approximately 450 participants, pre-registered by Brookshire Brothers, received COVID-19 vaccinations throughout the day's event. "I am grateful the City, County and SFA had this opportunity to support a local provider and our community" stated Nacogdoches Mayor Shelley Brophy,

The shot clinic also allowed the emergency management team to analyze its plan on a smaller scale. "I am confident we're fully prepared should the state pivot to a larger community-based vaccination model," stated Nacogdoches Fire Chief Keith Kiplinger.

DSHS has yet to announce which local providers will eventually receive vaccine shipments in its week 5 allocations. Qualifying individuals are encouraged to monitor the DSHS, City and County websites and social media platforms for updates.

A link to the DSHS Vaccination page can be found at [nactx.us/COVID19](https://nactx.us/COVID19) or at [www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us](https://www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us) under COVID Information.



The joint Nacogdoches Call Center can be reached at 936-468-4784 Monday through Friday from 9am to 6pm. The local dashboard, updated daily with COVID numbers, can be found at [tinyurl.com/NACCOVID](https://tinyurl.com/NACCOVID).