



January 7, 2021

Dear Fellow Employee:

We begin the new year with COVID-19 vaccinations rolling out this Spring and Summer. Our Ben E. Keith COVID-19 Task Force continues to monitor information on a regular basis to ensure that we are following CDC, state, and local guidelines to keep you safe and our business operating. We will continue to evaluate and refine how to best serve you, our customers, and our suppliers during this challenging time.

### **Phased approach to vaccinations**

Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is currently limited, the CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, and local governments on how to approach the rollout. Recently, the CDC recommended providing COVID-19 vaccine in phases:

- 1a – Healthcare personnel AND long-term care facility residents
- 1b – Frontline essential workers AND people age 75 years and older
- 1c – People aged 65 through 74 years AND people aged 16 through 64 years with underlying medical conditions AND other essential workers

### **State and county responses vary**

State, county, and in some cases, city governments, are developing a tailored vaccine rollout response which may differ from the CDC recommendations above, and which are regularly evolving. *Please contact your local state health department to learn more about the availability of vaccines and their timing. In some locations, you may be able to register for vaccination if you meet certain criteria.*

### **Our commitment to you**

Ben E. Keith will continue to support vaccination efforts and will be ready to support the vaccination of our employees when essential food and beverage workers become eligible. We are committed to keeping you informed as we learn more about how to keep all of us safe and healthy.

In the meantime, we will continue to protect ourselves and each other by wearing a face covering, maintaining social distance, and practicing recommended hygiene protocols. Thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

COVID-19 Task Force  
Ben E. Keith Company

## Texas

As noted, each state has developed its guidelines which are evolving to address local needs. The most current information from the state of Texas regarding who is eligible to receive the vaccine is outlined below (this differs from the CDC guidance on the prior page):



(graphic from: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>)

***You may be eligible to receive a vaccine now if you are in one of these Phase 1B categories. Please [click here](#) to learn more, or contact your local health department.***

- People 65 years of age and older
- People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
  - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
  - Solid organ transplantation
  - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher)
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus