



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA urges Gov. Abbott to allow schools to end in-person instruction until every educator who wants a COVID-19 vaccine can get one

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement on the Texas Department of State Health Services' Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccine priority list:

The Texas State Teachers Association encourages every school employee who is 65 or older or who has underlying health conditions to take the COVID vaccine, if their physicians approve. But our public schools and students will not be safe until every educator who wants a vaccine can get one.

It may be several months before we have enough vaccine doses to cover all educators and the other high-risk groups. So, we need Gov. Greg Abbott to take other overdue steps to protect all our students and school employees from this deadly pandemic.

TSTA renews our call for the governor and the Texas Education Agency to give school districts the flexibility to close their buildings and conduct only remote instruction, without losing state funding, for the remainder of this school year if local health experts and local school officials believe that is necessary to keep students, educators and communities safe.

We also urge the governor to keep all districts fully funded for the remainder of the school year regardless of attendance losses. Schools cannot afford funding cuts, especially in the middle of a health crisis.

<https://dshs.texas.gov/news/releases/2020/20201221.aspx>