



George Linial, President & CEO
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December 18, 2020

COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP)
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199
(sent electronically)

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization of Older Adults in Residential Settings

Dear Chairwoman Garcia,

LeadingAge Texas represents the full continuum of mission-driven, not-for-profit aging services providers in Texas. We are comprised of more than 350 members, including approximately 200 not-for-profit retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, nursing homes, and home and community based services providers.

First, our organization would like to thank EVAP for prioritizing residents and staff in long-term care facilities, as well as home health and hospice workers in Phase 1A Tier 1 of Texas' vaccine allocation. As EVAP works to develop future phases of vaccine allocation, we ask that you continue to prioritize high-risk senior populations including independent senior living communities, Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs), HUD Section 202 housing, and other congregate settings where older Texans reside.

In addition to long-term care facilities, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccine program included other residential settings and the HUD Section 202 Program. We encourage EVAP to take these recommendations into consideration and prioritize these populations due to the high-risk of COVID-19 in older adults, specifically in congregate settings.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the work of EVAP and DSHS, and your efforts to ensure Texas successfully executes a COVID-19 vaccine program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Linial", written in a cursive style.

George Linial
President & CEO
LeadingAge Texas