FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department of Health Updates Order to Connect Everyone Currently Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine to Appointments

Harrisburg, PA - Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam today signed an updated order making March 31 the date by which all vaccine providers should have Phase 1A-eligible Pennsylvanians' vaccine appointments scheduled. The amended order also requires providers to make appointments with patients outside of their current patient network.

"This order requires vaccine providers to use all reasonable efforts to meet this goal by the end of the month," Acting Secretary Beam said. "Providers also are encouraged to consider other barriers to vaccination, such as transportation issues, and tackle those so that our most vulnerable can most easily access the vaccine."

"When scheduling appointments, providers should think through an equity lens and be aware of times or days that may be easier for different populations to get their vaccination," she said.

Beam also mentioned providers should consider leveraging mobile clinic opportunities.

To support vaccine providers, the department will be updating vaccine allocation information shared on its website so that eligible Pennsylvanians can see which providers have vaccine and the variety of ways vaccines are being provided, such as via clinic appointments and targeted community vaccination events.

The amendments were shared with vaccine providers Monday, March 15 and take effect today, March 16.

To meet the aggressive timelines, the department continues to temporarily focus weekly vaccine first dose allocations to those providers that can administer vaccine most efficiently and effectively under the guidelines of the Feb. 12, 2021 order that, among other things, requires providers to:

- At a minimum, administer 80 percent of their first doses of vaccine received within seven days of receipt of those doses.
- Follow all requirements and recommendations in the COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan.

- Adhere to the current phase of Pennsylvania's vaccine rollout, as defined by the department.
- Report the following within 24 hours of receipt of inventory or administration of a vaccine:
    o Race, ethnicity, and county of residence for everyone receiving the vaccine;
    o Receipt of shipments of COVID-19 immunization inventory;
    o Reduction in inventory levels as vaccines are administered; and
    o Reconciliation of inventory levels.

All providers that require and request second doses of vaccine will receive them so that people can return to their original provider to get their second dose.

This week, Pennsylvania vaccine providers will be receiving a total of 278,670 first/single doses and 242,270 second doses of vaccine. From December 2020 through March 20, the state has been allocated nearly 4.7 million vaccine doses from the federal government.

To date, providers in the 66 counties under the Department of Health's vaccine plan have administered 3,835,484 doses, including vaccinating more than 1.1 million people over age 65.

"Later this month, Pennsylvania anticipates receiving an increase in vaccine first doses," Acting Sec. Beam said. "Once we have everyone in Phase 1A scheduled, we will be working closely with vaccine providers and county leaders to set up community vaccination clinics and to vaccinate frontline workers.

"This aggressive plan is designed to meet the goals outlined Friday by Governor Tom Wolf and members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force to get everyone in Phase 1A scheduled, vaccinate workers in targeted industries and then move to have everyone who wishes to be vaccinated eligible by May 1," Acting Secretary Beam said.

The only exclusions to the order are vaccine providers whose provider agreement is with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and facilities owned or operated by the federal government, including facilities operated by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the latest information for individuals, families, businesses and schools, visit "Responding to COVID-19" on pa.gov.

While vaccine supply from the federal government remains limited, the Department of Health is working to ensure the vaccine is provided in a way that is ethical, equitable, and efficient. To keep Pennsylvanians informed about vaccination efforts:

- The [Your Turn](#) tool provides a way to register to be alerted when it's your turn to be vaccinated.
- A [commonwealth COVID-19 vaccination guide](#) explains the current process for getting one. Pennsylvanians with questions about the vaccination process can call the Department of Health hotline at 1-877-724-3258.
- [Vaccine provider map](#) to find a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.
- All of the locations that received vaccine and how much they have received can be found on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution webpage](#).
- [Vaccine dashboard data](#) can also be found on the website to find more information on the doses administered and showcase demographic information.
- Pennsylvanians can provide feedback on the Pennsylvania COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan by clicking on the Plan Feedback Form square under Popular Vaccine Topics [here](#).
- Frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

The Wolf Administration stresses the role Pennsylvanians play in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently.
- Stay home to avoid spreading COVID-19, especially if you are unwell.
- If you must go out, you are required to wear a mask when in a business or where it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing.
- Download the COVID Alert PA app and make your phone part of the fight. The free app can be found in the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#) by searching for "covid alert pa".

Updated Coronavirus Links: Press Releases, State Lab Photos, Graphics

- [Daily COVID-19 Report](#)
- [Press releases regarding coronavirus](#)
- [Latest information on the coronavirus](#)
- [Photos of the state's lab in Exton](#) (for download and use)
- [Coronavirus and preparedness graphics](#) (located at the bottom of the page)

[Community preparedness and procedures materials](#)