

### CURRENT PHASE ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINATION:

# 1A

Plus those who are 65 and over or those who are 16-64 with certain medical conditions

### TOTAL VACCINES

**ADMINISTERED:**  
1,523,510

### 7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE-VACCINES

**ADMINISTERED:**  
44,159

**TOTAL PERSONS  
COVERED:**  
1,167,402

**TOTAL PERSONS  
PARTIALLY COVERED:**  
811,294

**TOTAL PERSONS FULLY  
COVERED:**  
356,108

**ENROLLED PROVIDERS:**  
1,710

**PROVIDERS WHO HAVE  
RECEIVED VACCINE:**  
780

### COMMUNITY VACCINATION SITES:

**Pike County Site**  
2/20 – Second Dose Event

**Sullivan County Site**  
2/27 – Second Dose Event

Data through 2/12.

### NEW THIS WEEK - ORDER OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF HEALTH DIRECTING VACCINE PROVIDERS' ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES

On Feb. 12 Acting Secretary Beam issued an Order to increase the **administration** of vaccine dosages received; ensure ease of scheduling **appointments**; reinforce specific **reporting** by vaccine providers; and ensure **accountability** in providers' adherence to vaccine priorities.

#### **Administration:**

To address the limited supply of vaccine at this time, all vaccine providers will be required to administer a specific percentage of vaccine first doses received within seven days of receipt of those doses. Dispensations will be made for inclement weather.

Vaccine will be administered in accordance with the current phase of Pennsylvania's vaccine rollout.

For two-dose vaccines, providers will make every appropriate effort to ensure available appointments for that second dose.

#### **Appointments:**

In addition to online scheduling systems and publishing appointment availability, providers must also have a phone-based registration system to schedule appointments for the administration of any applicable dose. Phone lines may not simply direct patients to a website.

#### **Reporting:**

As health equity remains a priority, vaccine providers will continue to report race and ethnicity of vaccine recipients in accordance with the Order published in December.

Providers will enter information in the Department's immunization registry to record receipt of vaccine and ongoing inventory levels. The administration of vaccine doses are also required to be reported within 24 hours of administration into PASIIS.

#### **Accountability:**

The COVID-19 vaccination effort requires the collaboration and cooperation of leaders at all levels of government, legislators, vaccine providers, citizens, and stakeholders. It is our collective responsibility to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 until it is curtailed. Adherence to the Order is part of that responsibility.

The Department may reduce or suspend allocations of first doses for those vaccine providers that do not comply with the Order.

#### **Effective:**

The online and phone-based registration system requirements shall take effect 12:01 a.m. on February 19, 2021. The allocation enforcement under Section 5 shall take effect 12:01 a.m. on February 22, 2021. The remainder of the Order took effect when the order was announced.

#### **Resources:**

A copy of the Order can be found [here](#).

A Frequently Asked Questions document can be found [here](#).

Acting Secretary Beam's press conference can be found [here](#).

### NEW THIS WEEK - 'YOUR TURN' TOOL



'Your Turn' is an online vaccine eligibility and communications tool intended to assist individuals in determining their eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine and provide the opportunity to receive future messages when they become eligible.

**Registration:** The [Your Turn](#) tool does not register an individual to receive a vaccine and does not guarantee a vaccination appointment. A vaccination appointment is made directly with the vaccination provider of the individual's choice (using the providers shown on the [vaccine provider map](#)) when it's the individual's turn to receive a vaccine.

**Eligible individuals:** These individuals will be presented with information to find a vaccine using the vaccine provider map located on the Department's web page and have an opportunity to sign-up to receive future messages from the Department about vaccine distribution.

**Currently ineligible individuals:** These individuals will have an opportunity to sign-up to receive future messages from the Department about vaccine distribution.

**Assistance:** An individual who is unable to use the [Your Turn](#) online form can also call Department of Health 877-PA-HEALTH for assistance in completing the form.

### YOUR TURN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Why hasn't Pennsylvania created a statewide vaccine appointment system?** It is important to define what a central registry means for different people. At this time, the commonwealth is evaluating the potential benefits of a central registry that would create a master list of individuals who want to be vaccinated or would schedule appointments. The Department established the Your Turn tool, which registers people to be notified when they are eligible to be vaccinated. While we are always open to ways we can improve our systems and processes, we know providers across the state already have existing relationships with residents as well as existing registration systems to support the current process in place. Additionally, we know even those states with a centralized system face the same problem - limited vaccine.

**Is Your Turn Available in other languages?** The [Your Turn](#) online form is being developed as an iterative/phased approach with functionality to be added over the coming weeks and months. Upcoming functionality enhancements will include targeted/personalized messages, text messaging, accessibility testing, and language translation.

### NEW THIS WEEK – FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Starting the week of February 15, Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs) will begin directly receiving vaccine supply from the federal government. Health Centers provide primary care services in underserved communities across the country. There are more than 1,300 Community Health Centers serving almost 30 million people across the country. Two-thirds of the population that these centers serve are living at or below the federal poverty line and 60% are racial and/or ethnic minorities. **The initial phase will include at least one Community Health Center in each state, expanding to 250 centers in the coming weeks.**

The program will begin incrementally at select Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) funded health centers that specialize in caring for particularly hard-to-reach and disproportionately affected populations. Health centers will continue to follow state priority guidelines in administering the vaccine and be required to store, handle, and administer vaccine according to stated requirements, and meet necessary reporting requirements.

The allocation provided for this program is **separate from Pennsylvania's weekly allocations**. Like other programs recently announced, the federal government is providing vaccines to health centers as a way to increase access to vaccines for health centers serving the nation's underserved communities and disproportionately affected populations.

Links with more details can be found on page 4 of this document.

### LONG TERM CARE UPDATES and FAQs:

**Can long term care facilities reopen their facilities and allow visitors when residents are vaccinated?** Visitors are allowed in skilled nursing facilities as long as the facility is following CMS guidance. As the state and federal regulator for nursing homes, DOH must follow these federal guidelines. If we do not align, facilities may be cited for a violation. DOH has not received a timeline from CMS on upcoming changes but we will continue to monitor that situation. Ensuring the health and wellbeing of nursing home residents is a top priority.

**Why is such a small percentage of the state's vaccine going to long-term care?** DOH has aggressively worked to vaccinate long-term care facilities since Dec. 28, 2020, and has allocated 672,750 first and second doses to vaccinate residents and staff through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership (FPP). DOH has advocated that CVS and Walgreens accelerate their work. We're also hopeful that industry associations and facility owners will also advocate that CVS and Walgreens dedicate more resources to this mission. Further, we are hopeful that long-term care facility staff will continue to believe in the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and not be hesitant to accept a vaccine when offered.

**If I am in the Federal Pharmacy Partnership and have already had my first and second clinic, will first doses be provided at the third clinic?**

The state's Federal Pharmacy Partners -- CVS and Walgreens -- are working to vaccinate all those in long-term care facilities that are part of the program. For facilities that have three clinics, first doses may be provided at the first and second clinics. At the third clinic, only second doses shall be provided.

### Federal Pharmacy Partnership (FPP)

Residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities, personal care homes, and assisted living residences are being vaccinated by CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership. Residents and staff of other DHS-licensed long-term and congregate care settings are getting COVID-19 vaccines through a partnership between DHS and Rite Aid.

To date, 100 percent of skilled nursing facilities enrolled in the FPP have received their first vaccine, 70 percent have received their second doses and, 70 percent of personal care homes and assisted living residences enrolled in the program have received their first doses.

More information about the DHS and Rite Aid partnership can be found [HERE](#).

### TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED:

CVS: 222,060

Walgreens: 34,318

Rite Aid: 4,359

### OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Which metrics should we use to compare our progress to other states? Why are we “so low” in the statewide rankings across various reporting outlets?** It’s very important to not compare what is being done in Pennsylvania to other states. First, we have two jurisdictional programs (Philadelphia and Pennsylvania’s other 66 counties) to vaccinate Pennsylvanians. Second, Pennsylvania’s population, size, population 65 and older, population in long-term care facilities and other factors make a comparison with other states inaccurate. We are working to vaccinate our Phase 1A populations as quickly as possible. Vaccinating people in our nursing homes, personal care homes, assisted living residences and other long-term care facilities has been a significant task, and we appreciate the work of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership and Rite Aid in this.

Pennsylvania is also being sure that second doses will be available when it is appropriate. This is different from some other states, where they have been using all doses as first doses. By reserving second doses from a state level, we want vaccine providers to use all vaccine received as first doses, and we will ensure they receive their second doses appropriately. We are committed to ensuring that second doses are there for individuals when they need them.

**What are we doing to ensure equitable distribution among marginalized communities, specifically communities of color?** Public health crises have the potential to affect all populations but typically have more severe impacts on underserved populations, making those populations more vulnerable to severe illness and death. A first step in developing an equitable vaccine distribution plan is to understand and identify populations most at risk of contracting COVID-19 and severe illness.

Review of Census data, population social risk factors, health statuses, targeted communication campaigns and education material—including partnership trusted messenger service efforts, and translation service assistance are all strategies studied and implemented. The Department’s Health Equity Response Team continues to provide insight on communication strategies and vaccine rollout logistics for their areas of expertise. This working relationship reinforces public-private partnerships between the commonwealth and stakeholders. Additionally, the education of providers and laboratories on the importance of reporting race and ethnicity continues to occur to ensure we are collecting the most complete and actionable data to make informed evidence-based decisions.

Throughout our entire vaccination effort, we will continue to look at vulnerability indexes to ensure that we are removing barriers for vaccine in marginalized communities. There is also a significant need for trusted individuals in communities to share accurate information for individuals to make the best-educated decision around vaccinations.

### RELEVANT GUIDANCE/PRESS RELEASES/NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION:

#### Relevant Federal Guidance in the last 30 days:

[President Biden Announces Increased Vaccine Supply, Initial Launch of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, and Expansion of FEMA Reimbursement to States](#) – Released 2/2

[Understanding the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) – Updated 2/2

[FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Community Health Centers Vaccination Program to Launch Next Week and Another Increase in States, Tribes, & Territories’ Vaccine Supply](#) – Released 2/9

#### Relevant DOH Guidance in the last 30 days:

[Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Vaccine Providers’ Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) – Issued 2/12

[Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Frequently Asked Questions](#) – Released 2/12

### QUICK ACCESS WEBLINKS:

- [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)
- [Pennsylvania COVID Vaccine Guide](#)
- [DOH Vaccine Website](#)
- [DOH Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- [DOH Interim Vaccination Plan, V.5](#)
- [DOH Vaccine Provider Map](#)
- [DOH Plan Feedback Form](#)
- [DOH COVID Vaccine Resources](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

**For information or public health support call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).**

\*\*Philadelphia receives its vaccine allocation directly from the federal government and is responsible for its own distribution to the citizens of Philadelphia County. More information can be found [here](#).