

Talking Points on Vaccination of Pennsylvanians

- We know that there is significant interest among all Pennsylvanians about when they will get vaccinated.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health is working to ensure that everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine can get it.
 - We must have patience as the amount of vaccine available to Pennsylvanians is extremely limited.
 - It will take several months before there's enough vaccine available for everyone.
- Current science suggests that the approved COVID-19 vaccines will offer some level of protection against all strains of the virus that cause COVID-19.
- While the vaccine supply remains limited, our goals are to prioritize vaccinating people to provide maximum community benefits and minimize harms caused by the virus and prioritize vaccinations accordingly.
- We want to ensure the vaccine is provided in a way that is ethical, equitable and efficient, which is why Pennsylvania is taking a phased approach to provide the vaccine as fast as it can be manufactured and distributed.
- To date, Pennsylvania has received close to one million doses of the two currently approved vaccines to vaccinate health care providers, those living in skilled nursing facilities, and the staff that serve those communities.
- To date, these missions combined have with initial doses close to 480,000 Pennsylvanians.
- We are excited that there is significant interest in getting the COVID-19 vaccination and we urge all Pennsylvanians to continue to be patient in this effort.
- The vaccines that have been approved are safe and effective to protect people from COVID-19.
- We know that as we move forward, additional vaccines will likely be coming to the market as they complete their trials and move through the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization process.



- The Department will continue to share information as frequently as possible.

Vaccination Plan Updates

- The department recently updated its COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan to Version 5. This includes the most recent updates from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and January 12, 2021 comments by U.S. Health and Human Services Operation Warp Speed.
- The updates further define Phase 1A, 1B, and 1C.
- In addition, the plan includes the recommendation from the federal government's Operation Warp Speed that puts those 65 and older, and those with high-risk conditions, such as cancer, COPD, heart conditions, and those who are pregnant into Phase 1A.

Phase 1A

- In Phase 1A there are over 3.5 million people in Pennsylvania that fall into this category. This includes healthcare personnel, residents at long-term care facilities, those 65 and older and those with high-risk conditions, such as cancer, COPD, heart condition and those who are pregnant.
- To put this into perspective, here is a breakdown of several large populations of Pennsylvanians who are in Phase 1A:
 - Those 65 and older: approximately 2.4 million
 - Outpatient healthcare providers: approximately 406,000
 - Inpatient healthcare providers: approximately 295,000
 - Long-term care facility residents: approximately 325,000
 - Long-term care facility staff: approximately 118,000
 - Skilled nursing facility staff: approximately 116,000
 - Skilled nursing facility residents: approximately 88,000
 - Pharmacists: approximately 35,000

Phase 1B

- Phase 1B is now those essential workers as defined by the CDC and CISA guidance, and persons working in congregate care settings not otherwise



specified as long term care or working in home and community-based settings and who do not meet the definition of health care personnel.

- Phase 1B essential workers include:
 - First responders;
 - Correctional officers and other workers serving people in congregate care settings not included in Phase 1A;
 - Food and agricultural workers;
 - U.S. Postal Service workers;
 - Manufacturing workers;
 - Grocery store workers;
 - Education workers;
 - Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship;
 - Public transit workers; and
 - Individuals caring for children or in Early Childhood Programs.

- Also, included in 1B is persons in congregate settings not otherwise specified as a LTCF, and persons receiving home and community-based services.
 - These include a number of facility types, such as behavioral health and rehabilitation facilities, correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters or other locations for individuals experiencing homelessness, treatment programs, and several DHS facility types, including home and community-based services and child residential facilities, etc.

- We know that there are well over 1 million essential workers in non-healthcare occupations who are part of Phase 1B, so this group is likely close to 1.5 million individuals.

Phase 1C

- As discussed previously, the further clarification of a Phase 1C is included in this update.
- People in Phase 1C includes essential workers who are not in Phase 1A or Phase 1B. This group includes the following sectors:



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- Transportation and logistics;
- Water and Wastewater;
- Food Service;
- Shelter and Housing;
- Finance, including bank tellers;
- Information technology;
- Communications;
- Energy, including Nuclear Reactors;
- Legal Services;
- Federal, state, county and local government workers, including county election workers, elected officials and members of the judiciary and their staff;
- Media;
- Public Safety; and
- Public Health Workers.

Phase 2

- Phase 2 is for when an expanded supply of vaccine is available and for all individuals not previously covered who are 16 and older and do not have a contraindication to the vaccine.