

Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Vaccine Providers Support of COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at Institutions of Higher Education and School Entities

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a contagious disease that is spreading rapidly from person to person in the world, the United States, and this Commonwealth. COVID-19 can be transmitted from any person who is infected, even if they have no symptoms. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions are at a higher risk for serious illness. There have been 1,246,014 cases and 27,957 deaths in this Commonwealth caused by the still present and ongoing pandemic.

COVID-19 is a threat to the public's health, for which the Secretary of Health may order general control measures. This authority is granted to the Secretary of Health pursuant to Pennsylvania law. See section 5 of the Disease Prevention and Control Law, 35 P.S. § 521.5; section 2102(a) of the Administrative Code of 1929, 71 P.S. § 532(a); and the Department of Health's regulation at 28 Pa. Code § 27.60 (relating to disease control measures). Particularly, the Department of Health (Department) has the authority to take any disease control measure appropriate to protect the public from the spread of infectious disease. See 35 P.S. § 521.5; 71 P.S. §§ 532(a), and 1403(a); 28 Pa. Code § 27.60.

A priority of the Commonwealth is to have and to maintain in-person instruction at schools. Despite COVID-19 vaccines being available, the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is causing the rate of cases of COVID-19 to increase.¹ The Delta variant is more infectious, and it is leading to increased transmissibility.² Additionally, data is suggesting that the Delta variant may cause more severe illness than previous strains of SARS-CoV-2.³ However, infections happen in only a small portion of fully vaccinated people.⁴ As such, these measures to support the effective administration of the COVID-19 vaccines within institutions of higher education and school entities will promote continued in-person instruction.⁵

¹ Delta Variant: What we Know about the Science, CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html> (last visited Aug. 9, 2021); Rachel Herlihy, *et al.*, "Rapid Increase in Circulation of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 (Delta) Variant," Aug. 6, 2021, CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7032e2.htm?s_cid=mm7032e2_w (last visited Aug. 9, 2021); Megan Scudellari, "How the Coronavirus Infects Cells – and Why Delta is so Dangerous," *Nature*, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02039-y> (last visited Aug. 11, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, CDC, updated July 28, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> (last visited Aug. 9, 2021).

⁵ David Rubin, *et al.*, "SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Public School District Employees Following a District-Wide Vaccination Program – Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, March 21 – April 23, 2021," July 30, 2021, CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7030e1.htm?s_cid=mm7030e1_w (last visited Aug. 9, 2021).



Accordingly, on this day, August 13, 2021, in order to prevent and control the spread of disease, I hereby order:

Section 1. Definitions

For purposes of this Order, the listed terms have the following meanings:

“Department” means the Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

“Institution of Higher Education” or “IHE” means any of the following:

1. A community college operating under Article XIX-A of the Public School Code of 1949, Act of March 10, 1949, P.L. 30, *as amended*, 24 P.S. §§ 1-101 *et. seq.*
2. A university within the State System of Higher Education.
3. The Pennsylvania State University.
4. The University of Pittsburgh.
5. Temple University.
6. Lincoln University.
7. Any other institution that is designated as “state-related” by the Commonwealth.
8. Any accredited private or independent college or university.
9. Any private licensed school as defined in the Private Licensed Schools Act, Act of December 15, 1986, P.L. 1585, No. 174, 24 P.S. §§ 6501 *et. seq.*

“School Entity” means a school district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, regional charter school or nonpublic school entity.

“Vaccine” means a vaccine authorized for emergency use or approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent COVID-19.

“Vaccine Providers” means all Pennsylvania vaccine providers who have a valid CDC COVID-19 Provider Agreement for the provision of the COVID-19 vaccine to individuals, with the following exceptions:

1. All Vaccine Providers whose Provider Agreement is solely with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.
2. Facilities owned or operated by the federal government who have received Vaccine from the federal government, including facilities operated by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

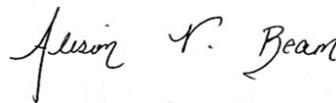
Section 1. Vaccine Providers

- A. As a supplement to the *Updated Order of the Acting Secretary of Health Directing Vaccine Providers’ Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines*, dated July 26, 2021, when requested by an IHE or a School Entity, a Vaccine Provider shall make every effort to coordinate a vaccine clinic for the employees, contractors, volunteers, students, or students’ families of the IHE or School Entity. Vaccine clinics may be held either at the School Entity or IHE, or in any form or location agreed upon by the School Entity or IHE and the Vaccine Provider “Coordination” shall include, at a minimum, the requirement to provide the following for the vaccine clinic, as requested by the IHE or School Entity:
 1. Immunizations with vaccine in accordance with state and Federal guidance, laws and regulations.
 2. Needles and syringes.
 3. Personal protective equipment (PPE).
 4. Copies of the applicable U.S Food and Drug Administration’s “Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers” or “Vaccine Information Sheet” to provide to recipients of the Vaccine.
 5. Screening for contraindications.
 6. Equipment, and medications to manage medical emergencies.
 7. Individuals licensed or otherwise authorized to administer Vaccine and respond to and manage medical emergencies.

8. Reporting of the administration of each immunization with vaccine given in accordance with the Order of the Secretary of Health Requiring Reporting of Data Related to Each Administration of an Immunization for COVID-19, dated December 14, 2020.
 9. Reporting adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).
 10. Disposal of needles, syringes, and vaccine vials.
- B. If a Vaccine Provider is unable to coordinate a vaccine clinic with an IHE or School Entity under Section 1(A), the Vaccine Provider shall direct the Institution of Higher Education or School Entity to the Department to be provided with contact information for other Vaccine Providers through <https://form.jotform.com/211333640273042> or by emailing RA-DHCOVIDVAX@pa.gov with subject line, "School-Based Clinic Matching."

Section 2. Effective Date and Duration

This Order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on August 16, 2021 and shall remain in effect until otherwise terminated.



Alison V. Beam
Acting Secretary of Health