

COVID -19 VACCINE PROVIDER

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

4/23/2021

Highlights

Policy

- Effective 4/13/2021 Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has officially moved to Phase 2 of vaccine rollout thus opening universal eligibility to all eligible adults.
- Effective 4/14/2021, [CDC and FDA recommended a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#) due to reports of adverse events. Voting members of CDC'S ACIP waited for additional data for a more robust risk-benefit analysis and are meeting today- April 23rd.
- DOH enforced pause on administration of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine is effective **until April 24th**, or when CDC and FDA update the guidance.
- PA DOH will be leveraging federal COVID-19 allocations through Federal Pharmacy Partnership (FPP) for long- term care program to ensure staffs and resident of these facilities have easy access to COVID-19 vaccines. For more information on this program, please refer to the checklists for [long term care facilities](#) and [long term care pharmacies](#).

Data

- According to the CDC, as of Thursday morning, April 22, Pennsylvania has administered first doses of vaccine to 44.7% of its eligible population, and the state ranks 10th among all 50 states for first doses administered by percentage of population.

Vaccinations Administered	
Partial vaccinations administered	4,602,578
Full vaccinations administered	2,969,315
Total vaccinations administered	7,571,893

Fig 1: COVID-19 vaccine administration data as of 4/22

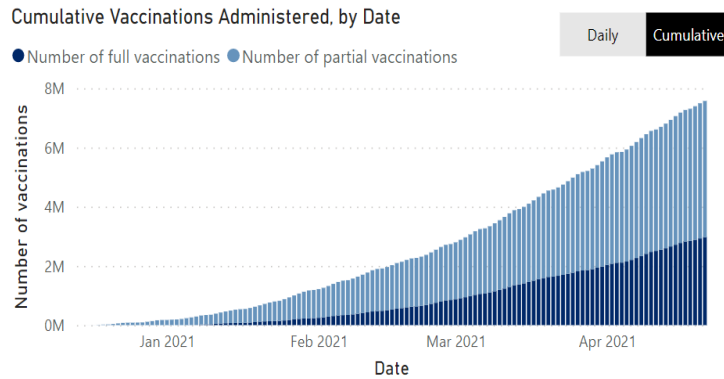


Fig 2: Graphic representation of COVID-19 vaccination across PA

Education

[FDA's FAQs on Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series](#)

[CDC's COVID Vaccine Provider Education and Training](#)

[CDC's COVID Vaccine Inventory Management Best Practices](#)

[CDC's COVID Vaccination Toolkit](#)

Best Practice Refresher

Storage & Handling

Vaccine & Diluents Placement and Monitoring

- Store vaccines away from walls, coils, cooling vents, top shelf, ceiling, door, floor, and back of unit
- Keep vaccines and diluents in original packaging with lids on to protect from light
- Stack in rows with same type of vaccine and diluent
- Use uncovered storage containers to organize vaccines and diluents
- Do not store vaccines in storage unit doors, on the top shelf, on the floor, or in deli, vegetable, or fruit crisper drawers
- Store pediatric and adult vaccines on different shelves
- Use labels with vaccine type
- Do not store sound-alike and look-alike vaccines next to each other.
- COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines purchased with public funds should be identified and stored separately from vaccines purchased with private funds

Diluent Storage

- Store diluent as directed in manufacturer's product information.
- Store refrigerated diluent with corresponding vaccine (these diluents may contain vaccine antigen).
- Never store diluents in the freezer.
- Label diluent to avoid inadvertent use of the wrong diluent when reconstituting a vaccine

Expiration Dates

- Monitor vaccine and diluent expiration dates at minimum, weekly.
- Rotate stock so that vaccine and diluent with soonest expiration dates are used first.
- If normal in appearance and stored and handled properly, product can be used through end of day indicated if expiration date is mm/dd/yyyy (e.g., 4/15/2021 – use through 4/15/2021); or through end of month indicated if expiration date is mm/yyyy (e.g., 4/2021 – use through 4/30/2021).
- Multidose vials can be used through expiration date on vial unless otherwise stated in manufacturer's product information.
- Reconstituted vaccine-- expiration date/time changes once opened or reconstituted.
- This is referred to as the Beyond Use Date (BUD) and is provided in the manufacturer's product information.
- Note any change in expiration date/time on vial.
- Never use expired vaccine or diluent

Source: CDC, 2021

Vaccine Allocation and Distribution

- COVID-19 vaccine requests are filled as vaccine supply allows.
- Please designate one person at your provider site to complete the weekly survey.
- Please make sure emails and other communication pertaining to COVID-19, such as completion of the survey and shipping information is shared as appropriate within your facility.
- Only enrolled providers may complete the vaccine request survey.
- Providers not enrolled are not yet eligible to receive vaccine.
- Please read your notification letter carefully to find out if its first dose or second dose allocation.
- Please use the vaccines as intended as first dose or second dose unless instructed otherwise by the DOH
- Please remember that the enrolled providers are expected:
 - *to determine the demand and need of vaccine at their facility and make request accordingly.*
 - *to fill out the weekly vaccine request survey on time if they want to have vaccines allocated to their site.*

- *to request vaccines, they intend to administer within next 7- 10 days; cancellations after submitting a survey and approval of allocation can't be guaranteed.*
- *to keep track of the vaccine's expiry date and rotate the stock as needed.*
- *to be mindful about ways to reduce unnecessary vaccine wastage.*
- *to not schedule first dose clinics if an allocation has never been made to their site.*
- *to be present to receive vaccine shipments at a given date, time, and location.*
- *to receive vaccine shipments delivered to them store them as appropriate and immediately notify DOH of the situation (if shipment received by error).*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

COVID- 19 Vaccine All Provider Network Meeting

Date: April 30th

Time: 12 – 1 pm (**Presentation by PA SIIS team**)

COVID- 19 Vaccine All Provider Network Meeting

Date: May 7th

Time: 12 – 1 pm

Note- Link for these meetings are sent to your primary and secondary contact's email addresses.

If you aren't currently receiving these invitations, please email us at our resource account

RA-DHCOVIDVAX@pa.gov

Helpful Links

[Vaccine Dashboard](#)

[Vaccine Finder Map](#)

[Personnel Authorized to Administer COVID Vaccine in PA](#)

[Provider Resources and FAQs](#)

[PA COVID Vaccine Provider Equity Toolkit](#)

Contact Us

For PA SIIS related inquiries

email: RA-DHPASIIS@PA.GOV Phone: 1-877-774-4748

For all other COVID-19 vaccine related inquiries

email: RA-DHCOVIDVAX@PA.GOV Phone:1-877-724-3258