

COVID -19 VACCINE PROVIDER

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

4/9/2021

Highlights

Policy

Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has officially moved to Phase 1B of COVID Vaccine rollout as of April 5, 2021.

The following group of people in Phase 1B are eligible to schedule vaccine appointments:

- ✓ People in congregate settings not otherwise specified as long-term care facilities, and persons receiving home and community-based services
- ✓ U.S. Postal Service workers
- ✓ Manufacturing workers
- ✓ Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship
- ✓ Public transit workers
- ✓ Education workers

Law enforcement workers, volunteer & career firefighters, grocery store workers, and food & agricultural workers continue to be eligible as announced on March 31st.

Effective 4/8/2021, DOH has made some changes to the wasted vaccine reporting process. Please refer to "[Reporting the Wasted Vaccines](#)" section in this newsletter for more details.

DOH is partnering with the Pennsylvania departments of Human Services (DHS), Corrections (DOC), and Agriculture to distribute Janssen vaccine to priority essential workers and vulnerable populations through special initiatives.

Currently, Janssen vaccine is reserved for special initiatives.

Data

Allocations received by PA DOH for the week of 4/5

Vaccine	1st Dose	2nd Dose
Pfizer	155610	155610
Moderna	117500	117500
Janssen	169200	n/a

As of 4/8/2021, 5,797,589 vaccine doses have been administered in the jurisdiction of PA DOH. A total of 2,073,705 individuals have been fully vaccinated whereas 3,723,884 individuals have been partially vaccinated against COVID-19.

As of Thursday morning, 4/8/2021, 35.8% of eligible population within the jurisdiction of PA have received first dose of vaccine.

Pennsylvania ranks 5th among all 50 states in percentage of eligible population who have been totally vaccinated against COVID-19.

Education

[COVID-19 Vaccine Training: General Overview of Immunization Best Practices for Healthcare Providers](#)

[Immunization: You Call the Shots-Module Ten- Storage and Handling - 2021](#)

[Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine \(Johnson & Johnson\): What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know](#)

[Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know](#)

[Pfizer- BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know](#)

Best Practice Refresher

All organizations and providers participating in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program:

- **Must** administer COVID-19 Vaccine at no out-of-pocket cost to the recipient
- May **not** deny anyone vaccination based on the vaccine recipient's coverage status or network status
- May **not** charge an office visit or other fee if COVID-19 vaccination is the sole medical service provided
- May **not** require additional medical services to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- **May** seek appropriate reimbursement from a program or plan that covers COVID-19 Vaccine administration fees for the vaccine recipient, such as:
 - vaccine recipient's private insurance company
 - Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement
 - HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program for non-insured vaccine recipients
- May **not** seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the vaccine recipient

For additional information on filing claims for reimbursement of COVID-19 vaccine administration fees, go to:

HRSA COVID-19

UninsuredProgram– <https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaimexternal> icon

CMS Guidance – <https://www.cms.gov/covidvax-providerexternal/icon>
(Source: CDC, 2021)

Contacting the Local Area Agency On Aging

Each county in the commonwealth has a local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). They have been given the information of selected providers who have received allocations from the state. If you are one of those providers, please coordinate with your local agency to ensure the elderly population has access to the vaccine. If you are not one of those providers and have not received allocation from us, but are currently serving the elderly population who need vaccine appointments, please refer them to the local AAA. The contact information specifics can be found here : [List of Local AAA in PA counties](#).

Reporting the Wasted Vaccines

The Department of Health has previously provided data to members of the General Assembly and the media regarding the fact that out of the 3,243,472 doses administered through 3/11 in Pennsylvania, providers report that only 0.07 percent of doses (2,184) had to be disposed of without being administered

Thank you for your careful handling of this life-saving vaccine. As providers, you are required to report wasted doses on a regular basis. The current process of collecting and publicly reporting wasted dose data requires manual intervention, which can be time-consuming but is necessary to ensure data quality. The wasted dose data represented above is the product of reconciliation of two data sources: a web form and reporting into PA-SIIS, Pennsylvania Statewide Immunization Information System.

Moving forward, the Department will only collect data about unused COVID19 vaccines through PA-SIIS. Effective **Thursday April 8, 2021** the Compromised COVID-19 Vaccine Webform will no longer be available on the Department's website. Providers must report all data regarding unused COVID-19 vaccine in PA-SIIS as demonstrated in the PA-SIIS training ([Course - TRAIN PA - an affiliate of the TRAIN Learning Network powered by the Public Health Foundation](#)). Please note that this change pertains only to the COVID-19 vaccine program and does not alter the established processes in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Finally, please note that the Department is planning to publish data on wasted COVID-19 doses by clinic within the next 60 days. As always, thank you for your partnership.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Event
4/9/2021	12- 1 pm	All provider call (Presentation by Moderna Rep)
4/12/2021	12- 12:30 pm	Hospital Provider Call
4/13/2021	3- 3:30 pm	FQHC Provider Call
4/14/2021	9:30 – 10 am	Pharmacy Provider Call
4/16/2021	12 – 1 pm	All Provider Call

Helpful Links

[Vaccine Dashboard](#)

[Vaccine Finder Map](#)

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

[Provider Resources and FAQs](#)

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

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

[CDC's COVID Vaccination Toolkit](#)

Contact us

For PA SIIS related inquiries

email: RA-DOHPASIIS@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

