Mass Immunization Program: Conforming to Good Medical and Public Health Practices

The protection offered by DOH under the Mass Immunization Law is for groups that are conducting vaccination clinics with volunteer, licensed staff such as nurses and physicians. It does not replace an organization’s/individual’s malpractice insurance.

The following items must be addressed in a letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) before the department will consider a proposed mass immunization program for approval under the Mass Immunization Law (42 Pa. C.S. § 8334).

1. Dates (months) and locations (counties) of the proposed clinics
2. Those eligible (i.e., residents, staff, 50 and older) to receive the service
3. Any fee or donation assessed in order to receive the service
4. The vaccines being offered in the clinics
5. The names of any co-sponsoring agencies of the program
6. The name of the medical director of the program
7. The type of volunteer personnel who will staff the clinics; (PAID PERSONNEL ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THE MASS IMMUNIZATION LAW.)
8. Notification of local emergency medical unit that will be aware of the clinic’s existence
9. Making assurances of the following:
   - Maintaining the cold chain of the vaccine
   - Administering the vaccines according to acceptable medical standards (e.g., ACIP)
   - Disposing of used syringes, needles and other waste in an approved manner
   - Distributing appropriate information to recipients to read prior to immunization
   - Reporting any adverse reactions following immunization; and
   - Dealing with on-site acute vaccine reactions or other medical problems.

Please direct inquiries to:
Division of Immunizations, Mass Vaccinations
Health & Welfare Building Room 1026
625 Forster St Harrisburg PA 17120
RA-DHIMMUNIZE@pa.gov