

COVID -19 VACCINE PROVIDER WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5/14/2021

Highlights

Policy

- President Joe Biden on 5/4 announced a goal of getting 70% of the US adults to be at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19 by July 4.
- Effective 4/23/2021 as per the recommendation from CDC's ACIP meeting, the pause on Johnson & Johnson's J&J vaccine has been lifted by PA DOH. Health care providers administering the vaccine and vaccine recipients or caregivers should review the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\) and Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#), which have been revised to include information about the risk of a very rare blood clot that has occurred in a very small number of people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.
- Effective 5/10, the 80% administration rule for state allocated vaccines is no longer in place as announced by Acting Secretary Beam.
- To simplify the vaccine ordering processes, from last week, DOH **discontinued the differentiation between 1st and 2nd doses.**
- Providers are encouraged to request the amount of vaccines they can administer by submitting a weekly survey request. DOH fulfilled most of the requests made by providers last week.
- Effective 5/12/2021, the Department of Health encouraged all COVID-19 vaccine providers to start vaccinating anyone age 12 and over with the Pfizer vaccine as recommended by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Data

- As of 5/14/2021, a total of 9,534,664 doses has been administered in the jurisdiction of DOH. 4,091,982 individuals have been fully vaccinated whereas 1,689,579 individuals have been partially vaccinated against COVID.



- According to the CDC, as of Friday morning, May 14th, Pennsylvania has administered first doses of vaccine to 54 % of its eligible population, and the state ranks 9th among all 50 states for first doses administered by percentage of population.

Education

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

[Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering 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](#)

Every COVID-19 vaccine provider enrolled with PA DOH is required to sign a provider enrollment agreement when they first join the COVID vaccine program. By signing the agreement providers agree to store and handle the vaccine products as required by CDC's guidance on vaccine storage and handling. Therefore, it's a provider's responsibility to be accountable for vaccines shipped to their facility, receive them, and store them appropriately and notify DOH if needed. This is especially true for vaccine that has been ordered/shipped to you based on your own requests, but this is also expected even when a provider is delivered a vaccine shipment in error. Providers should never ever refuse a vaccine shipment. DOH expects that every vaccine provider understands the value of this precious cargo. Please remember that refusing a vaccine shipment puts the viability of the vaccine at risk in most cases. Always be mindful that those vaccines could provide immunity to hundreds of eligible people and keep our community healthier and safer. We are in this together and DOH appreciates your partnership in addressing this issue.

Best Practice Refresher

Reminders

Please remember that the enrolled COVID-19 vaccine 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 situations when shipments are received by error).
- to coordinate partnership efforts with school districts, local colleges or reach out to county leadership to see if they can redistribute the vaccines, they no longer can use.

Pfizer EUA approval for adolescents

Pfizer has received an EUA approval for COVID-19 vaccines for adolescents 12-16-year-old. DOH is recommending following strategies for enrolled providers to ensure proper guidance on this change.

Providers who have been receiving Pfizer allocation in the past:

- Please continue requesting Pfizer through weekly survey to have vaccines available for adolescents.
- Please extend outreach to adult/parents COVID vaccine recipients to come back with their adolescent children for vaccination.
- Please collaborate with local school districts and pediatricians, if you can.

Pediatric providers without Pfizer stock:

- Please use vaccines.gov to refer your eligible patients to nearby providers that have received Pfizer allocations.

Large health networks:

- Please collaborate with small practices to make vaccines available to as many access points as possible.

CDC issued education materials specific to Pfizer EUA for adolescents

1. **New pediatric toolkit:** The [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#) provides materials to help healthcare providers give parents clear and accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines. The toolkit includes answers to common questions, an explanation of how mRNA vaccines work, and printable materials to give to parents.
2. **New FAQs about consent for minors:** [FAQs](#) have been posted on the Pfizer-BioNTech product page for providers with information about consent, prescreening questions, and other issues related to the vaccination of minors.
3. **New sample patient letter:** Healthcare providers can customize and send [this sample letter](#) to encourage their patients to get a COVID-19 vaccine. It includes the new recommendation that everyone aged 12 and up get a COVID-19 vaccination.
4. **Recipient education page:** The [Vaccine Recipient Education](#) page has been updated to include resources about COVID-19 vaccination for adolescents. (CDC, 2021)

Take every opportunity to vaccinate eligible person - CDC

To ensure providers do not miss an opportunity to vaccinate every eligible person, CDC recommends:

- Providers follow clinical best practice for vaccination as well as best practices when managing inventory to maximize vaccination and minimize dose wastage.
- Providers should not miss any opportunities to vaccinate every eligible person who presents at a vaccination site, even if it means puncturing a multidose vial to administer vaccine without having enough people available to receive each dose.
- Consider establishing and promoting standing vaccination days or half-days to increase likelihood of larger numbers of people presenting for vaccination on the same day.
- Vaccinate family members or friends who accompany patients to medical visits even if they are not established patients at the vaccinating practice
- Continue outreach to employers or other community partners that have a large membership or network to arrange vaccination events.
- As contingency plan, vaccine providers should attempt to contact additional persons (i.e., from a waitlist or through personal contacts of persons being vaccinated) to use as many vaccine doses as possible.
 - Once punctured, multidose vials must be used within:
 - 12 hours (Moderna)
 - 6 hours (Pfizer)
 - 6 hours (J&J/Janssen)

Contact Us

For PA SIIIS related inquiries

email: RA-DOHPASIIS@PA.GOV

For all other COVID-19 vaccine related inquiries

email: RA-DHCOVIDVAX@PA.GOV

Calendar of Upcoming Events

COVID- 19 Vaccine All Provider Call Date: May 21st Time: 12 – 1 pm

COVID- 19 Vaccine All Provider Call Date: May 28th Time: 12 – 1 pm

Useful Links

[Vaccine Dashboard](#)

[Vaccine Finder Map](#)

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

[Provider Resources and FAQs](#)