

Updated Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Vaccine Providers' Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines

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. As of this present date, there have been 1,220,671 cases and 27,827 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.

While COVID-19 vaccine supply has now met or exceeded demand, efforts are still necessary to ensure the effective administration of the COVID-19 vaccines within the Commonwealth. As demand for vaccine slows, efforts are needed to make receiving the COVID-19 vaccines more convenient in order to promote the vaccination of as many Pennsylvanians as possible. For similar purposes, vaccination data reported to the Department also aids, in part, in identifying portions or areas of the population that may need additional outreach on the vaccines. These measures will continue the effective administration of the COVID-19 vaccine within the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, on this day, July 26, 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.

“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 2. Vaccine Providers Administration

- A. Vaccine Providers giving a two-dose Vaccine shall provide to a first dose vaccinated recipient the COVID-19 reminder card and include on the back one of the following: a date for a return appointment for the second dose of Vaccine; the date of an appointment with an alternate provider for the second dose of Vaccine, or the date by which the second dose should be obtained from an alternate provider.
- B. Vaccine Providers providing a two-dose Vaccine shall make every appropriate effort to ensure appointments for a second dose sought by a first dose vaccinated recipient, including, but not limited to at least one of the following: designating appointment times for second doses; scheduling second doses at the time of first dose administration, or explaining to a recipient how to locate another Vaccine Provider providing the same Vaccine for the second dose.

Section 3. Vaccine Providers

To ensure that publicly available information is accurate, Vaccine Providers shall correct or update to the Department the website address(es) and/or link(s), phone number(s), and information related to vaccine appointments in a manner prescribed by the Department.

Section 4. Reporting of Vaccine Data

Vaccine Providers receiving Vaccine shall report to the Department the following:

1. Vaccinations and the related information required by the [Order Requiring Reporting Data Related to Each Administration of an Immunization for COVID-19](#), dated December 15, 2020, for each Vaccine administered, including race and ethnicity of the Vaccine recipient, whether or not the recipient is connected to the Vaccine Provider.

2. Within 24 hours of receipt of inventory or administration of a Vaccine, Vaccine Providers shall access the PA SIIIS web application to record receipt of shipments of COVID-19 immunization inventory and to record reduction in inventory levels as Vaccines are administered.
3. Upon the Department's request, and in a format as requested by the Department, the number of individuals vaccinated each week.

Section 5. Enforcement

In accordance with the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Agreement, Vaccine Providers are required to administer the Vaccine in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. The Department may reduce or temporarily suspend a Vaccine Provider's allocation of Vaccine doses for the Vaccine Provider's failure to comply with guidelines issued under federal government and state law, including failure to comply with this Order, issued under the authority of the Disease prevention and Control Law and the Administrative Code of 1929. Allocations of Vaccine reduced or temporarily suspended under this Order may be restored once a Vaccine Provider provides assurances of future compliance of this Order to the Department.

Section 6. Effect on Other Orders

The Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Vaccine Providers' Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines, dated February 12, 2021, and the Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Health Systems, Hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Pharmacies to Vaccinate Certain Health Care Personnel, dated December 30, 2020, are both rescinded and replaced by this Order.

Section 7. Effective Date and Duration

This Order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 28, 2021 and shall remain in effect until further notice.



Alison V. Beam, J.D.
Acting Secretary of Health