

## Information about the Priority of Individuals

On January 19, 2021 the Department of Health published the 5<sup>th</sup> version of the Interim Vaccination Plan for COVID-19. The entire plan can be accessed here:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/Immunizations/PA%20Interim%20Vaccine%20Plan%20V.5.pdf>

The individuals who are in Phase 1, A include the following:

- Long-term care facility residents
- Health care personnel including, but not limited to:
  - Emergency medical service personnel
  - Nurses
  - Nursing assistants
  - Physicians
  - Dentists
  - Dental hygienists
  - Chiropractors
  - Therapists
  - Phlebotomists
  - Pharmacists
  - Technicians
  - Pharmacy technicians
  - Health professions students and trainees
  - Direct support professionals
  - Clinical personnel in school settings or correctional facilities
  - Contractual HCP not directly employed by the health care facility
  - individuals providing services for the elderly and persons with disabilities including unpaid caregivers
- Persons not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious material that can transmit disease among or from health care personnel and patients
- Persons ages 65 and older
- Persons ages 16-64 with high-risk conditions:
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD
  - Down Syndrome
  - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
  - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
  - Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Smoking
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Here is a sample response to a constituent who asks what Phase they are in:

*Thank you for your inquiry regarding eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine. The Department of Health has created a COVID vaccine eligibility quiz to assist you. You can find the quiz at the link provided below: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/get-vaccinated/>*

### **Where do I get my vaccine?**

The Department of Health has created a map for individuals to use to determine the vaccine location that is closest to them. Constituents can access the map at

<https://padoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0ea7864ea98d423daa3f1711e3cba09e>.

The map is updated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to show where there are available vaccine doses. Additionally, when a constituent clicks on one of the green thumbtacks, contact information is provided on where to call to schedule an appointment if the person is in the current phase.

Additionally, each hospital's system that has been approved by the DOH to be a vaccine provider has created their own portal and waiting list. If the constituent has already registered with the electronic portal with their health care provider or local hospital, the constituent can register for the vaccine that way.

Here is a sample response to a constituent who wants to know where they can go to schedule their vaccine:

*Thank you for your inquiry regarding where you can get a COVID-19 vaccine in Pennsylvania. The Department of Health has created a provider map for you to use to determine where vaccines are being shipped. That map can be accessed here:*

<https://padoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0ea7864ea98d423daa3f1711e3cba09e>.

*Additionally, if you have registered with your primary care provider on their electronic portal, I would recommend you log into your electronic health record. Most health care systems are scheduling COVID vaccines through their electronic portal.*

### **Vaccines in Long-Term Care Facilities**

Long term care facilities are receiving the vaccine through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership (FPP). The FPP was established in December 2020 to ensure residents in long-term care settings receive the vaccination in a timely fashion. The FPP has partnered with CVS and Walgreens to administer the vaccination. The long-term care facility will schedule the vaccination of their residents directly with CVS or Walgreens.

If you have additional questions, the Department of Health has created the following FAQ that can be accessed at:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Federal-Pharmacy-Partnership-Fact-Sheet.aspx>

All residents of long-term care facilities are in Phase 1, A. The FPP has started with skilled nursing facilities. After all skilled nursing facility residents have been vaccinated, the FPP will then begin to schedule vaccinations in assisted living and personal care homes.

Here is a sample response to a constituent who is upset that a loved one in a long-term care facility has not been vaccinated yet.

*Thank you for your inquiry with respect to your loved one living in a long-term care facility. The federal government has prioritized this population to receive the COVID vaccine in the first phase*

*of distribution. CVS and Walgreens are working with the Federal Pharmacy Partnership (FPP) to expedite the vaccination of our most vulnerable citizens in long-term care. You can find out more information about the FPP here:*

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Federal-Pharmacy-Partnership-Fact-Sheet.aspx>

*Skilled nursing facilities will be the first to receive the vaccination. I would recommend communicating with the long-term care facility to see when the vaccination will be administered in the facility.*

### **Additional Helpful Statistics and Links on COVID Vaccine**

The recent changes have added almost 3 million people to Phase 1, A of the Vaccination Plan. More than a quarter of all Pennsylvanians are now eligible for the vaccine. Through the first five weeks of the vaccination distribution, Pennsylvania has received 797,950 doses of the vaccine. For the current vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna), two doses are required for full immunization of the individual.

To see where vaccines are being distributed, you can look at the link below. This information is updated as the health care facilities receive the vaccination. Over 180,000 vaccinations are expected this week, which is still less than received in Week 4 of this distribution.

[https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/COVID-19%20Vaccine\\_Provider%20Locations\\_Week%201-6.xlsx](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/COVID-19%20Vaccine_Provider%20Locations_Week%201-6.xlsx)

**Constituent wants to be in a different category, or feels as though their profession should move up in priority**, the Department of Health is requesting feedback on their vaccination plan. Constituents can make their request using the link below:

<https://forms.juware.com/forms/a3de9cc1-a49c-4178-830d-2f85797ed5f0>

**What is V-safe?** The CDC has created a website to track those that have been immunized for COVID and to send reminders for the second vaccination. Constituents can register for V-safe here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

### **Vaccine information:**

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/FAQs.aspx>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccines%20and%20Safety.aspx>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html>