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from  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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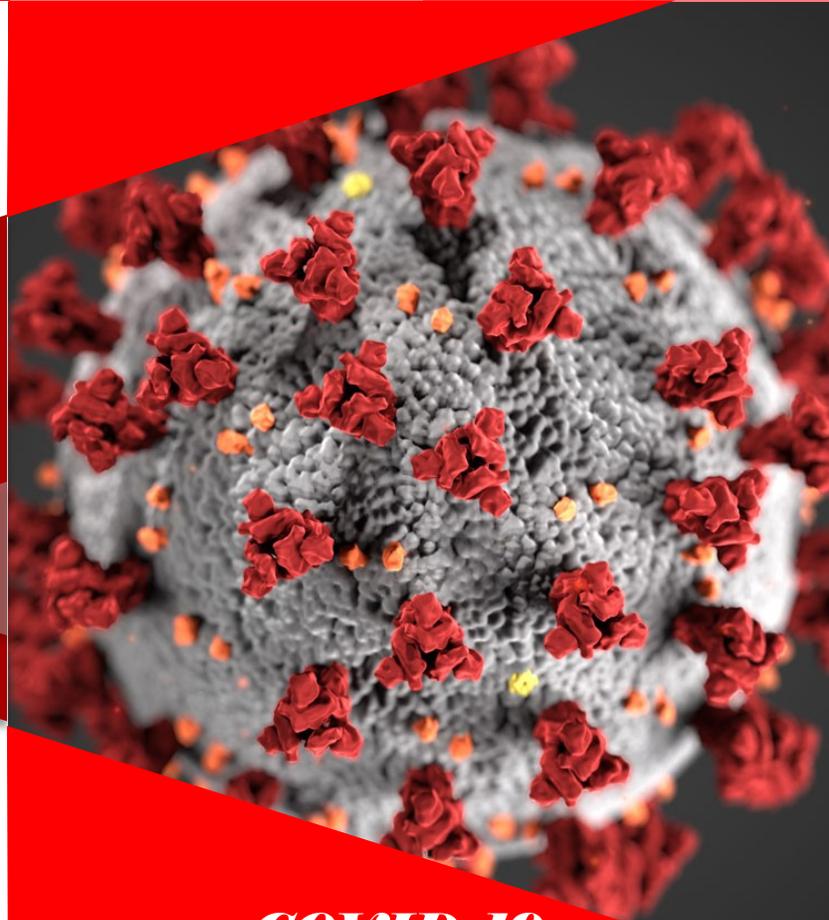
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## ***COVID-19*** ***Important Vaccine Bullets***

- ◆ Be aware that vaccine information is changing daily. Check out the Adams County website at [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us) for information. There are both *COVID Update & Vaccine Information* linked to the homepage. The content is being updated as quickly as we obtain the information. The pages also contain convenient links to WellSpan and PA Department of Health.
- ◆ The lack of vaccine supply is the fundamental cause for more vaccine options not being implemented and launched. At this moment the best option for getting vaccine in Adams County is to create an account on *My WellSpan* ([my.wellspan.org](http://my.wellspan.org)). You do not need to be a WellSpan patient to open an account and schedule a vaccine. When an appropriate supply of vaccine is obtained WellSpan will resume scheduling appointments inoculating Group 1A.

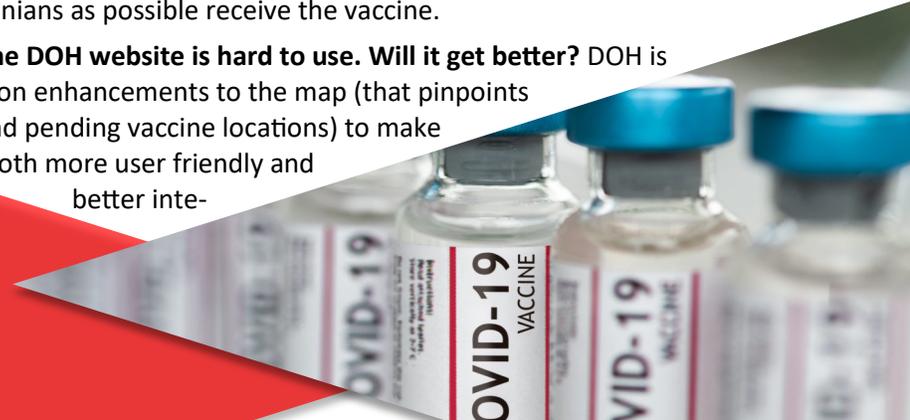


- ◆ While point of distribution at this time is generally through

WellSpan at Gettysburg Hospital and Herr's Ridge, it is anticipated that the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, slated to begin February 11, will allocate vaccine directly to pharmacies from the federal government. It is anticipated that doctors' offices will also be points of distribution. Adams County has been in consultation and planning with WellSpan to potentially utilize the Adams County Department of Emergency Services as a major point of distribution for Adams County. More commonly known as the 911 Center, the venue located beside the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex, is well suited for large scale inoculations with its central location, county ownership, off-street parking, plenty of space and facilities inside the building, and appropriate client entrance and exit options. Look for this option in the next 4-8 weeks.

- ◆ Given that lack of vaccine is the fundamental problem, it is fair to ask just how is the vaccine allocated to hospitals, pharmacies, and approved vaccinators throughout the Commonwealth? The Commonwealth allocates the limited doses among its counties and providers based on a formula that includes county population, population 65 and older, COVID-19 cases, and COVID-19 deaths, along with other factors such as inventory.
- ◆ **PHASE 1A FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:** How many people are in Phase 1A? While it is hard to reach an exact number due to a lack of data on which Pennsylvanians have high risk conditions, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) estimates that at least 3.5 million people are included in Phase 1A. How long will we be in phase 1A? This depends on both the vaccine allocated to the state, and the speed at which additional vaccines are approved by the FDA. Pennsylvania is currently receiving roughly 175,000 total first doses per week. DOH's ability to vaccinate more people is wholly dependent on the allocation of vaccines from the federal government. Can my group be moved up into a different phase? Pennsylvania is following the CDC's recommendations on who fits into which phase. Pennsylvania currently is only editing phases to match the CDC's recommendations. You may recall recently that over 65 was moved to 1A.
- ◆ **PHASE 1B FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:**  
Why aren't teachers and firefighters eligible for vaccine but smokers are? (PA DOH response)  
Teachers, firefighters, police and all of those in Phase 1B play a vital role in our community. PA DOH response: However, our vaccine plans are designed to ensure that vaccinations happen in an ethical, equitable and efficient way. A study published on 1/25 in the peer-reviewed journal JAMA Internal Medicine found that people who smoke or those who have smoked in the past are more likely to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19. Pennsylvania remains committed to addressing health disparities in our response to this deadly pandemic. Getting vaccine to all Pennsylvanians is primary in our mission, but we must take care of the most vulnerable now to prevent future hospitalizations and save lives.
- ◆ **Has Pennsylvania wasted vaccine or have doses gone unused?** Pennsylvania requires all providers of the COVID-19 vaccine to report any doses that are received, but not able to be used. The majority of discarded vaccine is related to vials broken in handling and syringe issues, such as bent or broken needles or clients refusing after the vaccine dose was drawn. The Department of Health actively follows up with providers reporting discarded doses to ensure that as many Pennsylvanians as possible receive the vaccine.

- ◆ **The map on the DOH website is hard to use. Will it get better?** DOH is working on enhancements to the map (that pinpoints active and pending vaccine locations) to make it both more user friendly and better inte-





grated with real-time information. We want to ensure the vaccine is provided in a way that is ethical, equitable and efficient. We know that internet access for some is a barrier to registering to get vaccinated, and the Department of Health is asking those individuals to call the DOH hotline at 1-877-724-3258.

- ◆ **Volunteer & Paid Vaccine Positions Available:** WellSpan is seeking clinical and non-clinical roles, and volunteer and paid positions are available. Those interested can visit the “*I Want To Help*” section of [wellspan.org](https://www.wellspan.org) to apply for these positions or for more information go to <https://www.wellspan.org/covid19/i-want-to-help/>. Tentative hours for the Volunteer Engagement Team at vaccine sites is Monday – Saturday 6am - 8pm for a minimum of 5-hour shifts. There is a 16 year-old minimum age requirement and a PA State Police Criminal Record Check is required.
- ◆ A [Commonwealth COVID-19 Vaccination Guide](#) explains the current process for getting one. Pennsylvanians with questions about the vaccination process can call the Department of Health hotline at 1-877-724-3258.
- ◆ [Vaccine Provider Map](#) to find a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.
- ◆ All of the locations that received vaccine and how much they have received can be found on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution webpage](#).
- ◆ [Vaccine Dashboard Data](#) can also be found on the website to find more information on the doses administered and showcase demographic information.
- ◆ The PA DOH has [Introduced the Your Turn Tool](#) to register to be alerted when it’s your turn to be vaccinated.

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## Gettysburg/Hanover New Transportation Service

Rabbittransit, in partnership with @Home in Adams County, has announced a new pilot program focused on workforce development. *The Gettysburg-Hanover Connector* is a new bus route launched in early February to connect the two main communities of Gettysburg and Hanover. This Workforce Development Pilot Program aims to help eliminate the transportation issue that many employers are currently facing by focusing on providing access to employment opportunities in areas currently not accessible by public transit. The Gettysburg-Hanover Connector will operate on weekdays from 6am to 6pm, with round trips traveling to and from the Gettysburg Transfer Center to downtown Hanover via Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) and Carlisle Pike (PA 94) with destinations along the way every two hours. The cost of a one-way fare is \$1.60. On all buses and routes, Rabbittransit follows CDC recommended COVID-19 safety precautions such as, enhanced cleaning on vehicles, mandatory nose and mouth coverings, physical distancing when possible as well as encouraging contactless fare.

The Gettysburg-Hanover Connector is an addition to fixed route service connecting Gettysburg to New Oxford and Hanover. The Gettysburg fixed route system comprises the Blue Line, Gray Line, Lincoln Line and, seasonally the Gold Line. Hanover’s fixed route system consists of 4 routes including the 20N, 20S, 22N and 16. The Route 16 also offers service from Hanover to York, further connecting riders to the York fixed route system. Buses are equipped with bicycle racks allowing those with bikes to travel farther once they’ve reached their destination on the fixed route.

Riders may also access the real-time bus tracking app, myStop, to identify arrival times of the bus as it tracks the vehicle in real time moving throughout the community. The Adams County

Board of Commissioners is proud to have played a role in supporting the creation of this pilot project. For more information on the Gettysburg-Hanover Connector, visit

[www.rabbittransit.org](http://www.rabbittransit.org).



# PA 21-22 Budget Proposal

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, Gov. Wolf delivered his seventh budget address, announcing his \$37.8 billion fiscal proposal for FY 2021-2022 by pre-recorded video due to concerns gathering the House and Senate in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposal represents an increase of about of \$3 billion, or 8.2%, over FY 2020-2021. Much of the proposal continues to prioritize a range of policies and initiatives that Gov. Wolf has raised during his time in office. At the top of the list are funding for public schools, an increase in the state's minimum wage to \$12 per hour this year and then gradually to \$15 per hour, and tax forgiveness provisions for single and married filers who meet certain income criteria. Additionally, Gov. Wolf also called for investments in businesses and infrastructure aimed at getting Pennsylvania back on track after the pandemic, urging the federal government to take action on broadband expansion, and investing \$3 billion over 10 years into Back to Work PA.

In strong contrast to last year's budget proposal, Gov. Wolf called for additional revenue to fund his plan. Most notably, perhaps, is an increase in the personal income tax from 3.07% to 4.49%, which he stated that coupled with expanded exemptions and tax forgiveness, would primarily impact the top third of earners. Gov. Wolf also called for the legalization of adult use recreational cannabis. Overall, for counties, the Governor's proposal represents generally level funding across line items, particularly in Human Services. One notable increase would be for county health departments as the Governor proposed an additional \$8.2 million for a total of \$33.7 million. It will be vital to monitor the state's commitment to sustaining these programs in light of a challenging financial situation and ensuring that one-time funds that may again be provided by the federal government to supplement the commonwealth's emergency response will be recognized as such, rather than supplanting the state's investment over the longer term. As the process goes forward, one of counties' top priorities ( besides election reform) for 2021 is increased funding for community-based mental health services, recognizing that county capacity to meet service needs has been compromised by a lack of State investment over the last decade, at the same time that mandates and service needs continue to increase. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania emphasizes the state-county partnership in service delivery, recognizing that a mutual understanding of that partnership can yield effective and responsible delivery of constituent services. Without an increase in funding for mental health services, counties will be hard-pressed to continue stretching dollars to meet local needs, despite their own investments at the local level. Furthermore, protecting funding for county human services is another CCAP priority for 2021 and we will continue to monitor these critical lines as the budget process moves ahead. More information on the priorities and testimony can be found on CCAP's Priorities page.

## Hospitality Industry Recovery Program

SB-109 – Act 1 is legislating funding specifically for hospitality related businesses. The application from each county to DCED was due yesterday. Adams County has submitted the application for funding. The county is the applicant and a pass through for the funding, with Adams County Economic Alliance being the administrator of the fiscal disbursement. Utilizing the formula contained in Act 1 the funding is estimated to be \$1.16M. If the application is successful it is predicted the turn-around for applications will be very short. As soon as we hear that our application was successful, and we determine the guidelines for applicants, we will utilize all the information channels available to get the application particulars out to the community.

*The* **End**

Please consider making Valentine's weekend an opportunity to support our many hospitality related businesses in Adams County. There is unfortunately a very valid reason for SB-109 – Act 1 as indicated in the aforementioned informational item. Many businesses have Valentine's Day specials for both dine-in and take-out. Spend some quality time with that special person while helping local Adams County businesses!

Hollabaugh Brothers in Biglerville does a great job having events for all occasions. This Saturday from 10-12, they are having a "I Love You To Pieces" event where you create a personal puzzle for your valentine. It also comes with a goodie bag that we presume may contain some chocolate. You must pre-register by calling 717-677-8412.

Plan to visit Adams County Winery this Saturday from 11-4 for "Chocolate & Wine Pairing Flights." Get 3 chocolates and 3 wines paired with your choice of sweet, semi-sweet or dry wine for \$15. There will be live music and food truck fare. You just might see me there! Call the winery at 717-334-4631 for more information.

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.