

# T G I F

*from*  
*Adams County*

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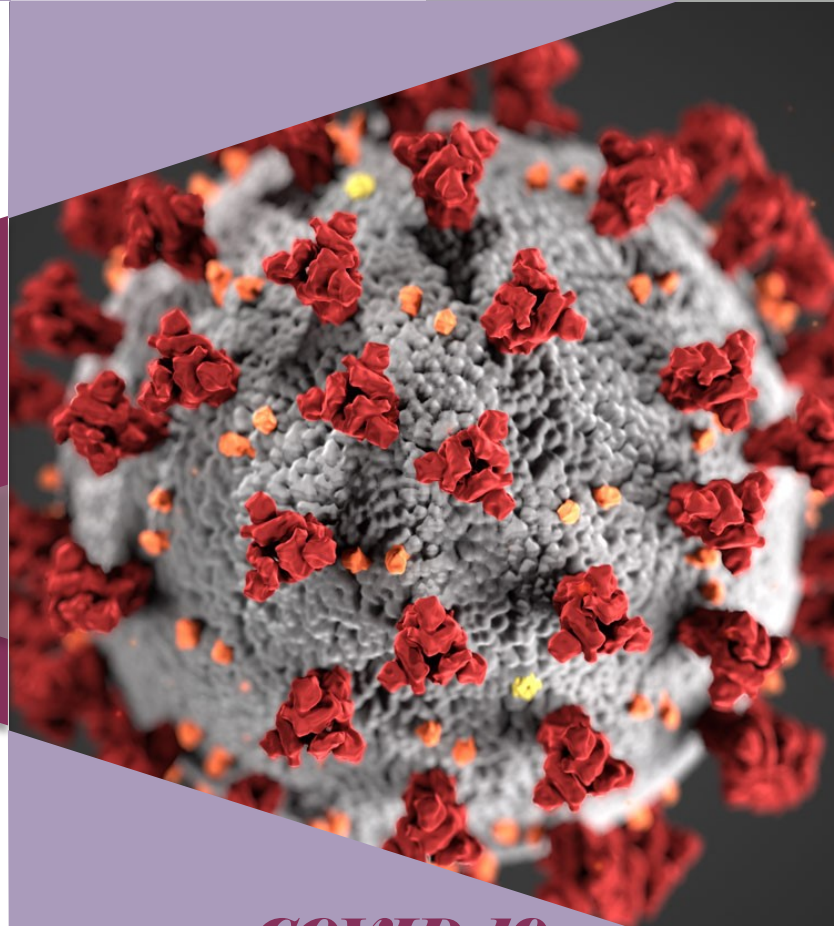
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## *COVID-19* *Vaccination Update*

***When and where can I get vaccinated?*** This is a question that is going to be asked with increasing frequency with the COVID vaccine roll-out. Thus, this issue of TGIF is largely and appropriately devoted to this timely topic. In the following, I have attempted to consolidate the significant available information and guidelines.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has adopted a plan for mass vaccination in Pennsylvania; and the comprehensive plan is available to the public on the DOH website: (<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>).

It should be noted that while the Adams County Department of Emergency Services (ACDES) plays an important role in in COVID dispersal, and is a point of distribution for some of the vaccine, be aware ACDES only plays a support role to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and our regional health care providers. To this point, it has not been a crystal clear and defined



pathway, changing constantly, as the county attempts to glean the latest accurate information available from Department of Health and Human Services, PA Department of Health, Wellspan and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. At this time we are still in Phase 1A and are awaiting PA DOH direction to move to Phase 1B. Information on the different phases are included at the end of this update.

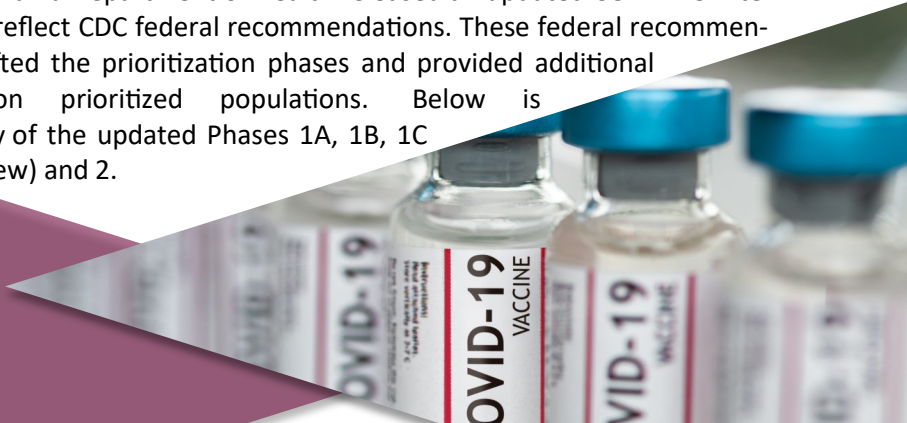
We have just been provided with a link to a DOH **Vaccine Provider Locator**. This should be a valuable tool as we move toward stage 1B. Upon opening the link, you will notice that vaccine locations are denoted as the vaccine having been provided to the facility in green, or not yet provided in red. I think it can be safely assumed this locator will be updated regularly. Here is the link for the vaccine provider locator: <https://padoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0ea7864ea98d423daa3f1711e3cba09e>

In a recent change of policy, previously, the only EMS Providers permitted to give vaccines were Paramedics and Pre-hospital nurses. Now, vaccine administration is part of the scope-of-practice for Advanced EMTs. This potentially increases the pool of possible vaccinators for our Point of Distribution Operations, such as the Adams County Department of Emergency Services, when the facility most likely goes active for Phase 1B. In addition, on January 14, 2021 the State approved a temporary waiver allowing pharmacists licensed by the Department of State to order and administer COVID-19 vaccines without a physician's order when vaccines are available to the public. Adding pharmacists to the health care professionals administering COVID-19 vaccines expands options for our community to be immunized once the vaccine is widely available from the federal government.

Currently, the Commonwealth is in Phase 1A; which means that health care personnel are receiving the vaccine from the health care provider. Additionally, the vaccine is being provided to Long-term Care Facilities (LTCFs) in the county. Recently, pre-hospital EMS providers were moved from the 1B (first responder phase) to the 1A phase; and at this point in time, the majority of the EMS providers in the county have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Once more vaccine is provided, and the green light is given by DOH, we will transition to phase 1B. The individuals addressed in 1B are the "non-health care frontline workers", including our first responders as defined by the DOH's published plan. Law enforcement, fire service, corrections and child protective services are just a few examples of DOH defined first responders. Phase 1B also currently includes those over age 75. The mass vaccination of 1B individuals will most likely occur at the DES building (911) as a Point of Distribution.

Once Phase 1B has been addressed, transition will occur to the 1C phase, High Risk for Severe Disease. At this point we should be seeing the vaccine available at primary care provider offices and pharmacies. And finally, we will move to Phase 2, addressing those outside of Phases 1A, 1B, and 1C. It is highly likely that, at this point, the County will have to activate a Point of Distribution again to meet the needs of those unable to secure the vaccine in the manner described above.

It is important to again reiterate that this is a PA Department of Health mission and the County role is supportive, AC-DES does not control when the vaccine is available or when we transition to the next phase. This plan is subject to change as needs dictate. Pennsylvania Department of Health released an updated COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan that also reflect CDC federal recommendations. These federal recommendations have shifted the prioritization phases and provided additional detail on prioritized populations. Below is a summary of the updated Phases 1A, 1B, 1C (new) and 2.





**Phase 1A** remains centered around healthcare workers as defined by Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. These include, **but are not limited to** emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, technicians, chiropractors, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, health professions students and trainees, direct support professionals, clinical personnel in school settings or correctional facilities, contractual healthcare professionals not directly employed by the health care facility, and other persons when working in health care settings, such as regulatory staff who perform on-site assessments in hospitals and 1A long-term care facilities, long-term care ombudsmen, Older Adult Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and Child Protective Services staff that are required to do on-site assessments in hospitals and 1A long-term care facilities, and volunteer personnel not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious material that can transmit disease among or from health care personnel and patients.

**Phase 1B** now includes all adults aged 75 and older (subject to possible change to 65), residents of non-1A congregate care facilities, and additional front-line essential workers, defined by CDC as “essential workers who perform duties across critical infrastructure sectors and maintain the services and functions that U.S. residents depend on daily and likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers”. These include, **but are not limited to**, law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, PA National Guard not included in 1A, emergency services personnel, corrections officers and other staff of non-1A congregate care settings, public transit workers, grocery store workers, education workers, manufacturing workers, and childcare workers. There is recent discussion by PA DOH to follow changing CDC guidelines to possibly include those 65 and older in Phase 1B.

**Phase 1C** has been created to include adults aged 65-74, adults 18-64 with a serious underlying condition that puts them at increased risk if they contract COVID-19, and essential workers in critical industries not covered under 1B. Per ACIP guidance, these industries include, **but are not limited to**, water and wastewater, finance, information technology, energy, food service, and federal/state/county/local government. As with Phase 1B, CDC defines essential workers as those “who perform duties across critical infrastructure sectors and maintain the services and functions that U.S. residents depend on daily and likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers”.

**Phase 2:** On December 22, 2020, the CDC adopted the recommendations of the ACIP to vaccinate any individual over the age of 16 who agrees and does not have a contraindication for vaccine.

Note that at this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech product is approved for those age 16 and 17.





# Election Reform CCAP 2021

Yesterday the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania released its preliminary non-partisan report outlining county priorities for election reforms, and strongly urging the General Assembly and Administration to work closely with counties to create positive, effective, election policy. Topping that list is additional time to pre-canvass mail-in ballots, and to move the deadline for mail-in ballot applications back to 15 days prior to an election in conjunction with the voter registration deadline.

## Overall Security Awareness Heightened

The following notification was put out to county staff by county security on Tuesday and the content warrants further distribution.

“Last week’s events at our Nation’s Capital have raised some concerns with regard to safety and security leading up to Inauguration Day. While the events in Washington, DC continue to be investigated, the FBI has issued a memo to law enforcement agencies across the country. It warns of possible armed protests at all 50 State Capitols and government buildings starting Saturday, January 16. As of this date, nothing has indicated Pennsylvania courthouses are at any particular risk during the period of January 16-20, 2021. Although no discernable threats to courthouse and other government facilities have come to light, please remain vigilant for suspicious activities and to promptly report persons or situations of concern to law enforcement.”

## It's Dog License Time Again

All dogs 3 months and older must be licensed. A dog owner can be fined up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog. You are also protecting your pet with this identification. Regular dog license is \$8.50 and \$6.50 if spayed or neutered.

The senior citizen rate is \$6.50 or \$4.50 if spayed or neutered. Lifetime licenses are also available.

Lifetime licenses save time, effort and provide a great value. Click on the link and check out the 2021 Adams County Treasurer’s Dog License flyer and Golden Retriever Bailey

Phiel, now 1 ½ years old, making her dog modeling debut in this edi-

tion! <http://www.adamscounty.us/dept/treasurer/documents/dog/2021doglicense.pdf>



# The End

I used to have to pick and choose Adams County events and activities to make recommendations for filling your event schedule. With COVID, that task has become somewhat challenging. I did notice Tuesday that Gateway RC Theater has re-opened.

Kathy and I were going to head to a socially distanced movie on Wednesday evening when we discovered that it is only open on weekends with limited showings. Did you ever think it would be novel and exciting just walking into a movie? Many of your favorite food and beverage establishments are back open again on a limited capacity basis. Please support those businesses and their staff.

Make lemonade out of lemons by taking this extra time and enjoy all the natural and scenic winter wonders we have in Adams County by walking, hiking, biking or gazing! 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!