Dear Residents of SD-44:

Last Friday, Governor Wolf announced that the state has been working with the federal government to set up 27 federal vaccine program sites in the Commonwealth. The announcement also laid out plans, which included three key areas (listed below). While some of these announcements are welcome changes that I have been calling for both publicly and privately in calls with the DOH and the Administration, I am still concerned by the lack of clarity and transparency relative to allocation data and the lack of commitment to establishing multiple regional sites in each of the collar counties, which have been short-changed thus far.

Both Montgomery and Chester counties have the capacity to quickly distribute vaccine doses via mass vaccination sites in communities across our region. This is critical to making that a reality.

There will be at least one vaccination site per IU region. School staff will be directed to the vaccination site in the region within which their school is located. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has been working closely with the National Guard and AMI, a health organization contracted by DOH, to direct operations at these sites. Each vaccination site is expected to begin operations by March 10-13, 2021. A list of FAQ’s can be found here.

In a call last Tuesday with the DOH and PEMA, I pressed for answers as to whether or not we would be prioritized for vaccine distribution. In his response, the Secretary of Health mentioned that the state will allocate their first allocation (94,600 doses) of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine starting with staff that have regular and sustained in-person contact with students during the regular school day, including teachers and staff providing pre-k and elementary instruction, special education, English language learners, and older, and individuals between the ages of 16-64 with certain medical conditions.

This means more shots in arms while helping our seniors secure appointments and receive their vaccine before more broadly opening up to additional populations. The vaccine is necessary to help re-open our schools, offices, shops, and places of worship. Learning loss and mental health, particularly for our children, have been front and center in our discussions with the DOH. We cannot afford to have more families experiencing the same immeasurable loss.

The Secretary of Health further went on to establish multiple regional sites in each of the collar counties, which have been short-changed thus far. Montgomery and Chester counties have the capacity to quickly distribute vaccine doses via mass vaccination sites in communities across our region. In a call last Tuesday with the DOH, I pressed for answers as to whether or not we would be prioritized for vaccine distribution. They mentioned that the state will allocate their first allocation of vaccines to regions and counties throughout the commonwealth. Targeting frontline workers and first responders using a portion of J&J doses. Targeted industries include law enforcement/correctional staff, grocery workers, firefighters (both career and volunteer), meat processing and agriculture workers. Using the J&J supply to support regionally planned and facilitated mass vaccination sites, as well as quickly completing vaccine missions for critical frontline workers means more shots in arms while helping our senior vaccine appointments and receive their vaccine before more broadly opening up to additional populations.

My office continues to help senior citizens and other constituents who may be having difficulty registering for a vaccine appointment, due to a number of factors like not having an email address, difficulty registering for a vaccine appointment, due to a number of factors like not having an email address, and older, and individuals between the ages of 16-64 with certain medical conditions.

I will keep posting updates from the DOH, as well as any vaccine opportunities that pop-up across our community while I continue to advocate for more vaccine doses directly to our region in SEPA. Follow the latest updates, be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

You can always call my office at 610-792-2137 and my team will help answer any questions and register you based on your county of residence.

COVID-19 Vaccine for Pre-K to 12 School Staff

Last Wednesday, Governor Wolf announced that the state will allocate their first allocation (94,600 doses) of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine with confidence in having sufficient supply to keep those appointments visible into their future allocations. This will allow them to schedule appointments with confidence in having sufficient supply to keep those appointments scheduled across our community.

Scheduling vaccine appointments for those in Phase 1A who are still seeking a vaccination. The Secretary of Health will be issuing an Order that will require vaccine providers to make best efforts to schedule all 1A appointments by the end of the month. To assist them in achieving this goal, the state will be providing greater visibility into their future allocations. This will allow them to schedule appointments with confidence in having sufficient supply to keep those appointments scheduled.

Establishing Regional Vaccination Clinics using a portion of the weekly allocation of Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses after the completion of the special initiative to vaccinate teachers and staff. The state will make this available to regions and counties throughout the commonwealth.

Targeting frontline workers and first responders using a portion of J&J doses. Targeted industries include law enforcement/correctional staff, grocery workers, firefighters (both career and volunteer), meat processing and agriculture workers. Using the J&J supply to support regionally planned and facilitated mass vaccination sites, as well as quickly completing vaccine missions for critical frontline workers means more shots in arms while helping our senior vaccine appointments and receive their vaccine before more broadly opening up to additional populations.

COVID Vaccination Registration

Montgomery County

If you live or work in Montgomery County and are 65 and older or you have a health condition that qualifies you for the vaccine under Phase 1B or 1C, you can pre-register for the vaccine. Montgomery County Vaccination Registry

Chester County

Chester County continues to vaccinate groups in Phase 1A to include the individuals 65 and older, and individuals between the ages of 16-64 with certain medical conditions. Chester County Vaccination Registry
Berks County
If you live in Berks County, vaccine distribution is handled by licensed healthcare providers and pharmacies. The County of Berks cannot distribute nor determine who gets the vaccine, but officials are working closely with local health care providers as they continue to coordinate and communicate vaccine distribution efforts. Learn more about how to register with providers HERE.

Hospitality Industry Recovery Program
Grants

Chester County
Applications open today, March 15, and interested applicants can apply HERE.

Montgomery County
Applications opened on March 12, and interested applicants can apply HERE.

Reimagine Ridge Pike
Do you have special talents in design or an interest in community development? If so, Lower Providence Township is inviting you to participate in the Reimagine Ridge Pike Design Challenge. The challenge is part of the Township’s Comprehensive Plan Update process. This type of design challenge is often used by local governments to go beyond a typical presentation format to include a creative and interactive way to generate ideas and involve the community. Participants are asked to create a conceptual vision of a Ridge Pike streetscape in the form of a Computer Aided Design (CAD), hand-drawn image, vision board or some other visual medium. The target area can be any section of Ridge Pike between Trooper Road and Eagleville Road. Submission deadline is April 23. Learn more HERE.

Tax Season Seminar
It’s tax prep season! If you have questions while completing your tax forms, then join our virtual seminar TONIGHT at 6PM where we will have tax attorneys from Villanova and Philadelphia Legal Assistance available to help provide assistance. Register HERE.
Free Tax Prep Service

My district office in Royersford Borough is offering free tax prep service for anyone who needs to file a tax return by using a 1040 form. This service will be offered on Thursdays from 5-7pm through April 8 (all COVID precautions will be enforced).

You MUST make an appointment by calling my office at 610-792-2137 (ask for Nikki). To learn more about the service and what you will need to bring to your appointment click HERE.

How to Stay Informed

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA Dept. Data COVID-19 report. Updated regularly throughout the day.
- Follow the PA Health Department on Twitter.
- Follow them on Facebook.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Follow the CDC on Twitter.
- Follow the CDC on Facebook.
- Learn how best to prevent “community transmission” with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

Stay Connected

Follow me on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the latest news and updates.

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