Dear Residents of SD-44:

On Saturday, along with other officials across Chester County, I made calls to eligible 1A residents who signed up with the county to offer them an appointment for this coming week. The joy in people's voices was incredible, and it's yet another reminder about how critical it is that we get shots in arms as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Weeks later, we are still waiting on real data, showing where the DOH sent vaccines week to week, why they didn't use their own formula for allocation, and what they will do to fix the inequities.

We have first responders and frontline workers, like our grocery store workers, who have been putting themselves at great risk for the last year, and yet we can't figure out how to distribute this vaccine. Yes, there is a supply issue, but that does not explain the allocation decisions made by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This has been and will continue to be my top priority until all of my constituents across SD44, who were some of the first affected nearly a year ago, are fully vaccinated.

If you need assistance, my office is here to help. You can send my team and I an email to senatormuth@pasenate.com or call us at (610) 792-2137. Follow the latest updates, be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Senator Katie Muth

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 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 learners and associated support staff.

In a call last Tuesday with the DOH and PEMA, I pressed for answers as to whether or not our region would be prioritized given that our schools have been shut down considerably longer than other areas of the state. It is critical that our children are back in school and vaccinating our teachers and support staff quickly is a big step in 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 National Guard and AMI, a health organization contracted by DOH, will direct operations and administer doses at these sites. Each vaccination site is expected to begin operations between March 10-13, 2021. A list of FAQs can be found HERE.

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 HERE.

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. Vaccine supply remains limited and appointments are opened as more vaccine becomes available.

If you are in the age "16-64 with a medical condition" group*, that now identifies you as Phase 1A, and you completed the previous survey, please complete this form again.

Berk 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.

Local health departments in both Chester and Montgomery counties have opened COVID-19 hotlines, since many people, seniors in particular, lack access to the internet or have trouble navigating the various websites. The County of Berks cannot distribute nor determine who gets the vaccine, but officials are working closely with local health care providers to help them continue to coordinate and communicate vaccine distribution efforts. Vaccine distribution is handled by licensed healthcare providers and pharmacies.
You can also head to senatormuth.com/covid19, where you will find links to helpful bits of information, updates, and resources as it pertains to COVID-19. If you or a family member need assistance registering for the vaccine, please call my office at 610-792-2137 or send an email to senatormuth@pasenate.com.

Montgomery County Hospitality Industry Recovery Program

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has allocated $145 million to counties for a grant program to provide financial relief to businesses with a primary activity in NAICS Code subsector 721 (Accommodations) and 722 (Food Service and Drinking Places) per Senate Bill 109. Montgomery County has received approximately $9.4 million in funding to provide grants to eligible businesses through this program.

Support is available for Montgomery County’s restaurants, lodging or accommodation businesses, and other food service businesses facing hardship due to COVID-19. Applications open March 12, business owners are encouraged to review application criteria now to prepare their applications.

Virtual Wellness Symposium

Join us for a FREE Virtual Wellness Symposium Hosted by Mayor Jenna of Royersford and featuring over 20 local businesses, offices, and organizations! This is a great opportunity to learn about resources that are available to you throughout our community. Make sure to check out the event page and click 'GOING' if you are on Facebook, so that you receive additional details and updates as they become available.

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 DoH Daily 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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