



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH

March 1, 2021

Edward Balaban, DO, FACP, FASCO, FCPP
Chair, Board of Trustees
Pennsylvania Medical Society
400 Winding Creek Boulevard
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-1885

Dear Dr. Balaban,

Thank you for your letter regarding Pennsylvania's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. The Department of Health (department) appreciates the ongoing support and collaboration with the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) and its members.

As you know, currently there is a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine compared to demand. The department is making every possible effort to ensure that vaccine received in the commonwealth is distributed efficiently. To that end, I issued an order on February 12, 2021 directing vaccine providers' administration of the COVID-19 vaccines to prioritize efficiency.

To address the specific concerns of the physician community expressed in your letter, I offer the following clarification and response:

- The department is extremely grateful to the health care providers who have enrolled as vaccine providers to date, including physician offices. Pennsylvania has over 1800 vaccine providers currently enrolled and the department will not be removing them from the list of enrolled vaccine providers.
- Due to the limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines, the department is focusing on efficiency and concentration within the provider network at this time. As more vaccine becomes available, we will revisit our distribution plan and call upon more enrolled providers to deliver this life saving medicine to Pennsylvanians.
- Lastly, patients should receive their second dose of vaccine where they received their first dose. The order dated February 12, 2021, was directive to first doses. Second doses are secure and providers who administered first doses should request second doses at the appropriate intervals.



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Thank you, again, for the ongoing collaboration with PAMED throughout the pandemic response. The department extends immense gratitude to Pennsylvania's physicians for their dedication in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and providing care to residents across the commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison V. Beam".

Alison V. Beam
Acting Secretary of Health