



NEWS

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PHCA to do Whatever Necessary to Help Health Department Facilitate Distribution of Flu Vaccine to Seniors in Need

In Addition to Nursing Homes, Personal Care Homes and Other Long Term Care Settings Require Flu Vaccine

Harrisburg, PA – Following today’s announcement that the Pennsylvania Department of Health will distribute approximately 340,000 doses of flu vaccine the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made available to Pennsylvanians most in need, the Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) said it will work with the Health Department and do whatever is necessary to help ensure distribution is expedited and directed towards seniors and staff in all long term care settings.

“PHCA will work with PA Department of Health Secretary, Calvin Johnson, in distributing the new allocation of flu vaccine in the most expedited, efficient manner possible,” stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President of the PHCA. “In the distribution process, it is essential to ensure seniors in personal care homes and all other long term care settings receive the vaccine in addition to our frail and elderly residing in nursing homes.”

The PA Department of Health will work with the CDC so that manufacturer Aventis Pasteur can ship directly to health care providers in Pennsylvania over the coming weeks. The Department is finalizing plans of exactly who will receive the vaccine and how much they will get. Thus far, the Commonwealth has received more than 1.7 million doses of vaccine, which was distributed by the public and private sector. At least 3 million Pennsylvanians are considered at high-risk.

“We intend to monitor the vaccine distribution process and the criteria being employed very carefully to make sure our vulnerable populations are protected,” added Rosenbloom. “While this entire situation surrounding the flu vaccine shortage has been unfortunate, the federal government, our leaders in the Commonwealth and the long term care profession itself are doing a creditable job to ensure those most in need are quickly immunized.”

PHCA is a statewide membership services organization representing approximately 300 long-term care and senior service providers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information about PHCA is available by calling 717-221-1800 or visiting www.phca.org.

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