



January 25, 2021

Acting Secretary Alison Beam
Interim Acting Physician General Wendy Braund, MD
Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Via electronic communication

Dear Acting Secretary Beam and Dr. Braund:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) and our more than 6,000 physician, resident and student members, congratulations on your new roles in leading the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The PAFP is ready to serve as a reliable resource and assist you and the Department in advancing the health of all Pennsylvanians.

I write to urge you to place a premium on family physician practices in the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution to ensure safe and efficient administration of the vaccine to more Pennsylvanians.

We understand the urgency to distribute the vaccine widely and equitably across the Commonwealth via pharmacies and hospital systems; however, family physician practices are being largely underutilized, especially independent practices that are registered to be vaccine providers. Family physicians understand the needs and health concerns of their patients and are well-equipped to provide the vaccine in a safe and controlled setting.

While the COVID-19 vaccine has been deemed safe for most people 16 years of age and older, family physicians understand their patients' health history, which allows them to best determine the safety of the vaccine for each patient. Additionally, many practices have the capacity to not only vaccinate more patients daily, but also to monitor patients for adverse reactions after receiving the vaccine.

We appreciate your efforts to supply the vaccine to providers across the state and request that you prioritize family physician practices in your vaccine distribution plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracey Conti, MD
President
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