



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 10, 2021

Through the diligent work and cooperation of the Vaccine Task Force, the Department of Health, our statewide network of vaccine providers, and many of you, Pennsylvania has made admirable progress in our vaccine rollout and, as of July 28th, we stand ranked eighth in the nation for first doses administered. Not coincidentally, we also stand at 45th in the nation for new COVID cases per capita. Unfortunately, the rising tide of the Delta variant is lifting case numbers in all states, and Pennsylvania is no exception – our statewide seven-day average daily caseload has nearly quadrupled in just three weeks. Low case counts and high rates of vaccination in eligible people are what keep all of us, including the immunocompromised and children under twelve, safer as we return to our normal routines.

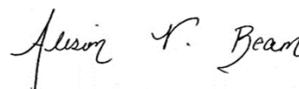
We are at a pivotal moment in this pandemic – a moment that has already passed in states like Arkansas, Missouri, and Louisiana – where we can either stand by as COVID evolves into a disease that hospitalizes people at rates rivaling the COVID we knew in 2020, or we can redouble our vaccination efforts and work together to protect the progress we have made and avoid the consequences of widespread infection. We know what those consequences would be: dangerous living conditions for our elderly loved ones in long-term care facilities, workplaces with fewer available workers, and full hospitals.

We are asking you to take advantage of this moment and use every tool at your disposal, starting now, to encourage your community to be vaccinated. We are all connected to our network on social media, through local events, newsletters, and more. We can talk to our community directly; we can elevate the voices of local trusted healthcare providers; we can discuss our own experiences and talk about our shared goals: protecting ourselves and those we love. Please do this with care, with understanding, and with urgency.

Free resources are available at pa.gov/COVID. Thank you for your continued efforts and your attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor


ALISON BEAM
Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Health