February 10, 2021

Commonwealth Creates Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force with Legislature

The commonwealth is establishing a joint task force on the COVID-19 vaccine with members from each legislative caucus to provide a more accurate and timely sharing of information between the executive and legislative branches of government.

Members of the task force include co-chairs Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director Randy Padfield; Sen. Ryan Aument for the Senate Republican Caucus; Sen. Art Haywood for the Senate Democratic Caucus; Rep. Tim O’Neal for the House Republican Caucus; and Rep. Bridget Kosierowski for the House Democratic Caucus. Click here for more.

National Vaccine Supply to Increase

The White House has announced that the Biden Administration will increase the vaccine supply to states, tribes, and territories by 5% over last week. In addition, beginning the week of February 15, vaccine supplies will be sent directly to some federally qualified health centers, which serve those living at or below the federal poverty line. Initially, at least one community health center in each state will be included, with plans to expand to 250 centers in the coming weeks. Click here for more.

Rite Aid Expands No-Charge COVID-19 Testing Sites

Rite Aid has expanded its no-charge COVID-19 testing sites to include 317 additional drive-through locations across New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania through its partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Sites will use a self-swab nasal test for those 4 and older and operate seven days a week. Pre-registration at www.riteaid.com is required. Click here for more.

Department of Health Launches Vaccine Eligibility Tool

The state Department of Health has a new tool available to help Pennsylvanians understand when it is their turn to be vaccinated. However, it does not register anyone to receive a vaccine or help them schedule an appointment. Those who do not have internet access may call 877-PA-HEALTH to speak with a representative to determine eligibility. Click here for more.