
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 451 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, COLLETT, MUTH, CAPPELLETTI, FONTANA,
KANE AND SANTARSIERO, APRIL 9, 2021

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 9, 2021

AN ACT

1 Providing for COVID-19 Vaccine Registry and for regulations by
2 Department of Health.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19
7 Vaccine Registry Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and
11 end the pandemic is to vaccinate as many residents of this
12 Commonwealth as quickly as possible.

13 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to support
14 the vaccination process by creating a Statewide vaccination
15 registry which:

16 (i) Permits residents of this Commonwealth to
17 register to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

18 (ii) Permits a family to register at the same time

1 and notes any risk conditions, classification memberships
2 and willingness to travel.

3 (iii) Allows COVID-19 vaccine providers access to
4 the registry to prioritize outreach to eligible
5 participants as vaccines become available.

6 (iv) Limits the frustration residents of this
7 Commonwealth are feeling when trying to access vaccine
8 appointments.

9 Section 3. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
14 proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on
15 March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and
16 any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

17 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

18 "Provider." A person or entity authorized to distribute a
19 COVID-19 vaccine to a registrant.

20 "Registrant." An individual or an authorized representative
21 of the individual registering for access to a COVID-19 vaccine
22 in the registry.

23 "Registry." The COVID-19 Vaccine Registry established under
24 section 4.

25 Section 4. COVID-19 vaccine registry.

26 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and
27 maintain a COVID-19 vaccine registry of registrants willing to
28 receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as a vaccine becomes
29 available that is accessible to individuals through a telephone
30 hotline and a publicly accessible Internet website. The registry

1 shall:

2 (1) Permit the self-registration of individuals willing
3 to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

4 (2) Allow registration of multiple family members by a
5 single registrant.

6 (3) Permit a registrant to note complicating medical
7 conditions and risk categories and submit documentation of
8 those conditions or categories.

9 (4) Allow a registrant to note how far the registrant is
10 willing to travel to access a COVID-19 vaccine.

11 (5) Permit a provider to sort by zip code, medical
12 condition, travel parameters, risk category and any other
13 category as determined by the department.

14 (6) Contain a feature that regularly contacts
15 registrants and asks registrants to note whether or not they
16 have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

17 (7) Include a method to permit a registrant to be
18 removed from the registry by the registrant upon receiving a
19 vaccination.

20 (8) Require providers to report back to the registry
21 which registrants have received a COVID-19 vaccine to permit
22 the removal of those participants from the registry.

23 (9) Provide registrants a registrant identification
24 number that will allow them to check their vaccination
25 status, including what category they fall within and what
26 category is currently being vaccinated.

27 (10) Require providers to use the registry as their
28 primary registration tool.

29 (b) Availability of registry.--The department shall create a
30 process whereby a provider may request access to the registry.

1 Except as otherwise provided, the department shall require that
2 any provider accessing the registry may only use the data
3 obtained for the purpose of outreach to provide a COVID-19
4 vaccine. Nothing in this act shall prevent a provider from
5 maintaining any registrant data as necessary and consented by
6 the registrant to procure a COVID-19 vaccine or follow-up care
7 related to a COVID-19 vaccine.

8 (c) Use of registry.--A provider may access the registry for
9 the following purposes:

10 (1) To generate a list of registrants to contact as
11 COVID-19 vaccines become available.

12 (2) To access data to prioritize risk categories.

13 (3) To fill an empty COVID-19 appointment.

14 (d) Report of vaccine receipt.--A provider who has used data
15 from the registry shall report to the registry which registrants
16 have received the vaccine.

17 (e) Limitations on vaccine distribution.--A provider that
18 seeks to provide vaccines shall register under subsection (f).
19 The Commonwealth shall not make a vaccine distribution to a
20 provider until the provider provides confirmation that the
21 provider has registered under subsection (f).

22 (f) Provider registration.--In order to register as a
23 provider under this act, a provider shall:

24 (1) Affirm in a form and manner determined by the
25 department that the provider shall provide priority access to
26 vaccine appointments to registrants who have been registered
27 and if the provider fills vaccine appointments with
28 individuals outside of the registry, the provider shall give
29 notice to the department regarding the number of appointments
30 filled and the reason for doing so.

1 (2) Prior to opening an appointment for vaccination,
2 access the registry for an updated list of registrants who
3 are qualified and willing to access the vaccine. Providers
4 shall give registrants priority when filling appointments for
5 a vaccination.

6 (3) Provide the following information:

7 (i) Projected availability of COVID-19 vaccination
8 appointments.

9 (ii) The process on how to register for appointments
10 or contact the registrant directly to schedule the
11 appointment.

12 (g) Reporting requirements.--Use of the registry shall not
13 supersede any requirements for reporting mandated by the
14 department.

15 Section 5. Temporary regulations.

16 (a) Promulgation.--The department shall promulgate temporary
17 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act
18 which shall not be subject to:

19 (1) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act of
20 July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
21 Commonwealth Documents Law.

22 (2) Sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of October
23 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth
24 Attorneys Act.

25 (3) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as
26 the Regulatory Review Act.

27 (b) Expiration.--The department's authority to adopt
28 temporary regulations under subsection (a) shall expire two
29 years after the effective date of this section. Regulations
30 adopted after this period shall be promulgated as provided by

1 law.

2 (c) Publication.--The department shall publish initial
3 temporary regulations no later than 30 days after the effective
4 date of this section.

5 Section 6. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect immediately.