



NADSA Public Policy Alert



Participation Creates Power!

ADS Providers Must Advocate to Their State Administrators for Priority Inclusion in COVID-19 Vaccine Distributions

Dear NADSA Member:

The CDC and ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) have established healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents and workers as first recipients for the initial limited quantities of the COVID-19 vaccine. Some, but not all states, are including Adult Day Services (ADS) provider staff under the definition of healthcare workers, but not all are doing so. Furthermore, only some states are thus far including ADS participants in the same phase as long-term care residents. A few recent examples follow. There are a number of other states that are including ADS staff and providers in early vaccination programs.

With the urging of the Pennsylvania Adult Day Services Association (PADSA), the PA Departments of Aging, Health, and Human Services collaborated to include ADS providers as healthcare / long-term care facilities and will be included in the earliest vaccination phase:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/Immunizations/Vaccine%20Plan%20V.3%20FINAL.pdf>

Similarly, Texas has included ADS providers in the same early priority phase:

<https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates/Texas-Vaccine-Plan-10-16-2020-DRAFT-CDC-Submission.pdf>

The Tennessee Association of Adult Day Services has been working with the Tennessee Department of Health to ensure ADS providers are included in the earliest possible phases for vaccine distribution. To date, ADS employees are in the earliest phase, and members are being considered for added prioritization in phase 1A as well:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/COVID-19_Vaccination_Plan.pdf

We strongly encourage ADS providers to collaborate with their respective state jurisdictions to be included in the earliest possible vaccine distribution phases, and are free to use some of the above mentioned strategies as examples of priorities among states. Your state administrators can make the same decision, but they need to hear from you and other providers in your state.

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