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*from*  
*Adams County*

written by: **Commissioner Randy Phiel**

January 29, 2021

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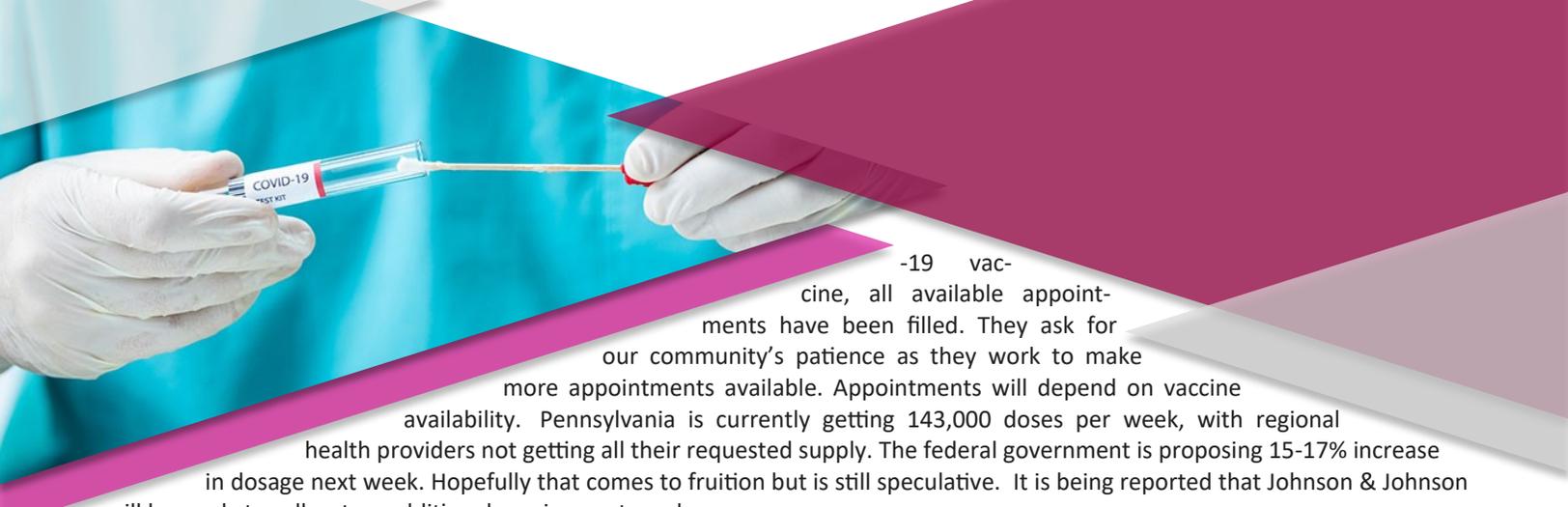
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## **COVID** *Vaccination Update*

One of the most frequent questions that the County has been receiving of late has been, “who is overseeing and managing the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and where can I get it?” The mass vaccination plan is managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH). Adams County has offered to support the PA DOH in any way possible to help with the process. We are awaiting the PA DOH to provide information regarding how the County can continue to assist. The County does not control when the vaccine is delivered to our county, when we transition to the next phase, or what groups are included in the various phases. At this time the County has posted available information from the PA DOH on the County website <http://www.adamscounty.us/Pages/Covid19VaccineandInformation.aspx> As of yesterday we have updated the county website with an easy to understand and maneuver Question & Answer Tab. Currently, we are in Phase 1A of the rollout. WellSpan is the current local provider of the vaccine. As of 1/28/21, WellSpan reported that as due to the high demand for the COVID



-19 vaccine, all available appointments have been filled. They ask for our community's patience as they work to make more appointments available. Appointments will depend on vaccine availability. Pennsylvania is currently getting 143,000 doses per week, with regional health providers not getting all their requested supply. The federal government is proposing 15-17% increase in dosage next week. Hopefully that comes to fruition but is still speculative. It is being reported that Johnson & Johnson will be ready to roll-out an additional vaccine next week.

WellSpan has indicated that while waiting for updates on new appointments, to use or create a "MyWellSpan" account to make the appointment and scheduling process easier. You do not have to be a WellSpan patient to create an account. To create an account go to <https://my.wellspan.org/MyWellSpan/Authentication/Login> If you encounter challenges creating an account, contact the phone number in the aforementioned link. If you are interested in assessing your eligibility for the vaccine, when it becomes available, the PA DOH has an eligibility quiz located here: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

An active list of providers with location and contact information is regularly updated can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Health site at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx> If you are interested in the full PA DOH Vaccination plan it is located here: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/Immunizations/PA%20Interim%20Vaccine%20Plan%20V.5.pdf>

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## Rotating Regional Pop-up COVID Testing Sites

The PA DOH has begun a program of pop-up COVID-19 testing sites around the Commonwealth. Last week Adams County Department of Emergency Services was one of the locations. Approximately 400 tests were given. Yesterday through this coming Tuesday, Adams County residents can access a site in Cumberland County at the Army War College, Army Heritage Education Center, 950 Soldiers Dr., Carlisle, PA, 17013

No appointment is necessary for these tests. Register at the site. Bring a photo-ID and insurance card. Patients are not required to show symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested and anyone can get tested

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## Court Hearing Update

With more court hearings moving to the Human Services Building (HSB) and attempting to adapt these hearings to the COVID dynamics, I thought it might be useful to spend a moment clarifying the Court schedule.

Central Court convenes on Wednesdays at HSB mostly for Preliminary Hearings. The Court is managing two or three courtrooms every Wednesday and doing around 50 cases. That equates to a lot of people and vehicles so HSB has worked well for administration, logistics, parking and security.

Domestic Relations Court, the majority of Juvenile Court, and most criminal court for non-incarcerated defendants is conducted at the HSB is conducted at HSB. Family Court is held at the Courthouse. The Criminal court for incarcerated defendants is via video hearings between the Adams County Correctional Center and the Courthouse. Criminal Business, Criminal and Civil Trials are all held at the Courthouse. Postponed trials will resume March 2021 - assuming COVID-19 does not spike.

There has been a significant increase in home confinement/electronic monitoring due to unavailability of Re-entry (Work Release) Center. It is actually a preferred practice in many cases and the Court anticipates expanded use of electronic monitoring beyond the pandemic.



## Some Capital Projects

Adams County has an exciting list of capital projects planned for the next (36) months, totaling just under \$10 Million dollars, taking advantage of historically low interest rates. These projects range from building envelope and energy savings endeavors, to a roof-mount solar project with roof improvements being designed for the Human Services Building, a new fire alarm and fire protection system for the courthouse, and a life-time license to launch an electronic filing system in the Prothonotary's office.

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## New Regional Transit Authority Being Formed

A new regional transit authority is in the process of formation and includes Adams and York counties. The new authority will include Rabbit Transit. It is hoped that this new authority will increase ridership in Adams County, and provide Adams County employers with a broader base from which to attract potential employees; while allowing Adams County residents more transportation opportunities. It should especially enhance service between Gettysburg, New Oxford and Hanover.



The **End**

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As many events are canceled and we sometimes search for things to do, I continually recommend taking advantage of the many natural outdoor activities in Adams County. While walking in the area of Laurel Lake last weekend, I could not help but notice several folks ice fishing on the lake. They were decked out with their equipment on sleds that were adapted for that purpose. I didn't see anybody catching anything in those majestic surroundings; but I admired their spunk. If you haven't been up to Long Pine Reservoir, in that same neck of the woods, after a snowfall, give it a try and you will find yourself returning.

Last Friday evening, Kathy and I went out to Gateway Gettysburg to catch a movie. The theater is open limited times Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bargain Tuesday. Social distancing was not an issue as there were only four of us in the theater; but the venue with small popcorn and Coke felt and tasted normal.

Groundhog Day is coming! Will Phil see his shadow? Will spring be early? Join Hollabaugh Bros. for a morning of games, stories, and crafts all in celebration of that special groundhog from 10am-11:30am this Saturday. The cost is \$10 per child, recommended age 3-8, and masks are required for this indoor program and space is limited to encourage social distancing. Call 717-677- 8412.

As many of you know **Norris Flowers** has been an anchor for the Adams County travel industry for 15 years as *Destination Gettysburg's Executive Director*. This week Norris announced his retirement in April. I have known and have had a great relationship with Norris since he arrived in Adams County, with my involvement in Annual Gettysburg Reenactment since 1995, four 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary prelude events in 2012, the Gettysburg 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary in 2013, and my role as a county commissioner. Early in our first term, communication and collaboration between Norris and myself resulted in an Adams County Commissioner being placed on the Destination Gettysburg Board and another commissioner on the Marketing Committee. After the 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary, Norris led the charge to diversify tourism opportunities and market that Adams County is not just about the civil war – Adams County has many other appealing visitor opportunities for all age groups. From the Adams County Board of Commissioners and the residents of Adams County- thank you Norris! We wish you and Susan good health, warm beaches, long happy hours, and lots of quality time with the grandkids!

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!