What Firefighters Need to Know about Coronavirus Vaccine (COVID-19)

Background

There have been two vaccines approved by the FDA for emergency use authorization (EUA), Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. We would like to take this opportunity to provide first responders with some quick reference links to access important information.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has developed an Interim Vaccination Plan for how the vaccine will be distributed and administered throughout the Commonwealth. Information pertaining specifically to first responders can be found in this document. PA COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan: COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan (pa.gov)

Firefighters and other types of first responders, such as law enforcement officers, PA National Guard members, etc. who are on scene responders who cannot work remotely, cannot maintain physical distancing and need to work closely with the public are in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan.

Questions and concerns about the EUA, vaccine safety, how it is administered, and other frequently asked questions can be accessed at the links provided in the resource section below.

Webcast on different topics such as What Clinicians Need to Know about Vaccines, Allergic Reactions, Contraindications, and Precautions, and Vaccine Safety among other topics can be viewed at the CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) website. https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp

Health alerts and advisories can be accessed through the PA Health Alert Network (HAN): https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/HAN.aspx

COVID-19 training is available on TRAIN PA: https://www.train.org/pa/welcome. Type keyword such as “covid” or “covid-19” in the search box.

We encourage all first responders to remain diligent with using appropriate PPE, screening of personnel, cleaning and disinfecting processes and maintaining good health. Please refer to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and CDC website regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Additional Resources

PA COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan: COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan (pa.gov)
Vaccine Toolkit (PA Dept. of Health): 12_1_2020 DOH Vaccine toolkit.pdf (pa.gov)
FDA Vaccine Facts; Emergency Use Authorization information sheet and additional links: The Path for a COVID-19 Vaccine from Research to Emergency Use Authorization (fda.gov)
Pre-Vaccination Checklist for COVID-19 Vaccines: Vaccine Administration: Intramuscular (IM) injections: Adults 19 years of age and older (cdc.gov)