

March 16, 2021

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The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225, Main Capitol Building
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The Honorable Bridget Kosierowski
Member
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 104, Irvis Office Building
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The Honorable Ryan Aument
Member
Senate of Pennsylvania
Room 9, Capitol East Wing
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The Honorable Alison Beam
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Health and Welfare Building, 8th Floor West
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The Honorable Art Haywood
Member
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Mr. Randy Padfield
Director
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
1310 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

The Honorable Tim O'Neal
Member
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 52B, Capitol East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2048

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania COVID -19 Vaccine Task Force:

On behalf of the 140,000 PSEA members who have already begun to receive the COVID-19 vaccine because of your efforts, I want to extend my gratitude for the incredible work you did to make the vaccine available to the school staff members who are so dedicated to teaching and serving Pennsylvania's students.

PSEA members want nothing more than to return to school for in-person instruction and see our students every day. I have been so proud of how our members have adapted to virtual and hybrid learning over the past year. But there is no doubt that these instructional approaches cannot replace teaching and serving students in person.

The vaccine program you created for school staff members will allow us to do just that in a way that reduces health risks and keeps staff members, students, and their families safe. This program is also allowing for the swift and efficient distribution of the vaccine, getting vaccines to school staff as quickly as possible. Just as important, vaccinating school staff is a key step to getting parents back to work and our economy back on track.

I know that creating this program and organizing the logistics of distributing and dispensing the vaccine for school staff were extremely difficult challenges. Thank you for your commitment to overcoming those challenges and making this program work.

Again, please know that PSEA members are grateful for your support and your leadership on this incredibly important issue. Thanks to you, I am certain that our public schools can and will return to full in-person instruction soon – which is the best possible outcome for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Askey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rich Askey