

STATE OF NEW YORK

6581

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI, CONRAD, WOERNER, THIELE, GRIFFIN, STERN, BURDICK, SEAWRIGHT, ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT directing the department of health develop a prioritized COVID-19 appointment process for individuals seventy-five years of age and older

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this act:

2 (1) "centralized manner" shall mean a process, established by the New
3 York state Department of Health ("the Department"), by which individuals
4 can register their information with either the state, county or city
5 health department or other state or local government entity;

6 (2) "prioritized appointment process" shall mean a process by which
7 the Department seeks to increase the percent vaccinated of a cohort of
8 individuals by ensuring, to the greatest extent possible, that a certain
9 number or percentage of vaccine appointments are available on an ongoing
10 basis to such cohort, within the overall vaccine distribution system of
11 the state; and

12 (3) "vaccine administration entity" shall mean any public or private
13 organization that is approved to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

14 (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the Department is
15 hereby directed to develop a prioritized appointment process for indi-
16 viduals seventy-five years of age and older who qualified for early
17 phases of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution but were unable to make an
18 appointment. The Department shall provide eligible individuals with the
19 opportunity to schedule an appointment in a centralized manner, either
20 online or by phone. After registration, these individuals shall be
21 assigned an appointment opportunity, to the greatest extent practicable,
22 at a vaccine administration entity. The Department may direct, or may
23 cause to be directed by a local government, any vaccine administration

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 entities to allocate a number or percentage of their vaccine allotment,
2 at appropriate dates and times, to provide appointment slots for these
3 individuals. The Department shall report to the legislature, no later
4 than thirty days after the effective date of this act, and every thirty
5 days thereafter, on the number of vaccines administered to individuals
6 seventy-five years of age and older and the approximate number of eligi-
7 ble individuals remaining to be vaccinated. The Commissioner of Health
8 may, thirty days after the effective date of this act, identify an addi-
9 tional cohort, or cohorts, of individuals who are eligible for the
10 vaccine but in the interest of public health, have not acquired a vacci-
11 nation percentage appropriate given the supply available and the time
12 elapsed since first eligible. The Commissioner of Health may issue an
13 order, consistent with the provisions of this act, to develop a prior-
14 itized appointment process for this cohort, or cohorts, of individuals.
15 In evaluating the inclusion of a cohort, or cohorts, in an order, the
16 Commissioner of Health, to the greatest extent practicable, shall follow
17 the New York State vaccine distribution phases previously established.
18 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.