



# COUNTY OF LEHIGH

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## Press Release

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### **County Officials, State Representatives Appeal for COVID-19 Relief at Lehigh County Jail**

**Lehigh County, PA-** Lehigh County Executive Philips Armstrong collaborated with State Representative Peter Schweyer, State Representative Michael Schlossberg, and Commissioner Chairperson Geoff Brace in appealing to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for immediate aid to the Lehigh County Jail.

On behalf of the prison's inmates and staff, an official letter of request was sent to the House of Representatives requesting more vaccinations, additional testing equipment, and additional architectural funding for ensured physical distancing. The letter, sent by Representative Schweyer's office, asks that this appeal be answered swiftly and urgently in order to prevent further tragedy at the facility.

The Lehigh County Jail began its vaccination scheduling for staff members and corrections officers prior to the release of this letter. Information has been distributed to staff members seeking to receive the vaccine, and multiple staff members already received their first and second doses. Vaccinations were scheduled and provided by St. Luke's and Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Director of Corrections, Janine Donate, confirms that the Lehigh County Jail is ready to move forward with inmate vaccinations once vaccines are secured.

"I have been in communication with our inmate healthcare provider to stay informed of the developments regarding vaccine availability for the inmate population." Said Janine Donate, Director of Corrections.

The health and safety of Lehigh County's inmates and staff remain an utmost priority during this difficult time. It is through the hopes of this letter that the Lehigh County Jail receives the resources it needs to withstand the COVID-19 virus.

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