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'Humbling' bout with COVID

Hale describes experience with virus

BY FRANK ANDRUSCAVAGE STAFF WRITER

POTTSVILLE — Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas Judge Christina E. Hale is recovering from a bout with COVID-19, a fight she said knocked every

ounce of strength from her for days.

"COVID is such an emotionally charged topic right now, I would never tell people what to do or think," she said. "But drawing on my personal experience, my best

advice to everyone is to please protect yourself and others because you do not want this virus."

Hale, 44, said she became symptomatic on Nov. 22, just six weeks after she was sworn into the county judge-

ship, when she noticed a slight fever and headache. Within hours, the fever spiked to 103 degrees. The next day, she went for a COVID test offered via drive-through at Cornerstone Healthcare, Frackville.

"They were fantastic and swabbed me right in my vehicle," Hale said.



CHRISTINA E. HALE

Things got "progressively worse in less than one day," Hale said, and for the following nine days she suffered

She also had difficulty breathing and endured coughing, delirium and body aches to the point she was unable to get out of bed for extended periods. She struggled to speak and lost her sense of taste and smell.

"My immune system was

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Wolf blames feds for short supply of vaccines

BY BORYS KRAWCZENIUK STAFF WRITER

Gov. Tom Wolf blamed the federal government for a lack of enough COVID-19 vaccines Tuesday and a backlog that worsened as he expanded eligibility last week.

Wolf said he followed federal guidelines when he widened the pool eligible for vaccination last week to include residents 65 and older and 16 to 64 years old with medical conditions that add risk to getting the virus. The eligible pool is known as 1A.

"We've received about 1.5 million vaccines. And since it's a two-shot cycle, that means we have enough for basically 750,000 Pennsylvanians," Wolf said during an online news conference. "There are over 4 million in the 1A category. ... That means we need 8 million vaccines. So at this point, we have a need for 8 million vaccines, and we have received 1.5 million vaccines. ... So one of the big constraints that we're all working under is the lack of supply, and that's facing states all across the country.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden delivers remarks on COVID-19 on Tuesday in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

Vaccines to be surged to states amid complaints

BY JONATHAN DREW AND ZEKE MILLER ASSOCIATED PRESS

Answering growing frustration over vaccine shortages, President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that the U.S. is surging deliveries to hard-pressed states over the next three weeks and expects to provide enough doses to vaccinate 300 million Americans by the end of the summer or early fall.

Biden, calling the push a "wartime effort," said the administration was working to buy an additional 100 million doses of each of the two approved coronavirus vaccines. He acknowledged that states in recent weeks have been left guessing how much vaccine they will have from one week to the next.

Shortages have been so severe that some vaccination sites around the U.S. had to cancel tens of thousands of appointments with people seeking their first shot.

"This is unacceptable," Biden said. "Lives are at stake."

He promised a roughly 16% boost in deliveries to states over the next three weeks.

The administration said it plans to buy another 100 million doses each from drugmakers Pfizer and Moderna to ensure it has enough vaccine for the long term. Even more vaccine

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'IT FEELS GOOD'



JACQUELINE DORMER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEFT: Rhiannon Lucas, of Valley View, talks about getting her COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday at the Redner's Pharmacy at Redner's Markets in Hegins. RIGHT: The Rev. Daniel Hicks, of Mifflinburg, talks about getting his vaccine.

Smoker, cancer survivor talk about receiving COVID-19 shot

BY CHRISTINE LEE STAFF WRITER

HEGINS — As a single mother and with high-risk family members, Rhiannon Lucas didn't want to take a chance with the coronavirus, so she got the vaccine.

"If I get (COVID), who will take care of me or my kids?" she said after receiving the shot in the pharmacy at the Redner's Markets just off Route 25 in Hegins Township.

The Valley View resident was one of about 600 who registered to receive the first dose of the Moderna vaccine at the store Tuesday, the first day they were given out to those who signed up for an appointment.

Lucas said she expected getting the vaccine to be like getting a flu shot, for which she has experienced a burning sensation. But that wasn't the case.

"I hardly felt it," Lucas said. Those who were inoculated had to be in Phase 1A of the state's vaccine distribution rollout plan, which includes health care workers, residents of long-term care facilities, those ages 65 and older and those 16-64 with high-risk conditions.

Lucas, 43, was able to get the first dose as she is a longtime smoker, a category



Pharmacist Bob Hewlett Jr. administers a COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday at the Redner's Pharmacy.

included in Phase 1A. She said she got it to protect her children, ages 8 and 13, as well as her dad, who is 64, and stepmom and mom, both 60.

"I don't want to expose them to the virus," she said.

Gratz resident Rick Brown, who was inoculated along with his 90-year-old father-in-law, Donald Weist, also of Gratz, also said it was painless.

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Rioters flaunt involvement in Capitol siege

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER AND COLLEEN LONG ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — These suspects weren't exactly in hiding.

"THIS IS ME," one man posted on Instagram with a hand emoji pointing to himself in a picture of the violent mob descending on the U.S. Capitol. "Sooo we've stormed Capitol Hill lol," one woman texted someone while inside the building. "I just wanted to incriminate myself a little lol," another wrote on Facebook about a selfie he took inside during the Jan. 6 riot.

In dozens of cases, supporters of President Donald Trump downright flaunted their activity on social media on the day of the deadly insurrection. Some, apparently realizing they were

in trouble with the law, deleted their accounts only to discover their friends and family members had already taken screenshots of their selfies, videos and comments and sent them to the FBI.

Their total lack of concern over getting caught and their friends' willingness to turn them in has helped authorities charge about 150 people as of Monday with federal crimes. But even with the help from the rioters themselves, investigators must still work rigorously to link the images to the vandalism and suspects to the acts on Jan. 6 in order to prove their case in court. And because so few were arrested at the scene, the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service have been forced to send agents to track suspects down.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier Jan. 6 at the Capitol in Washington. In dozens of cases on social media, Trump supporters downright flaunted their activity on the day of the deadly insurrection. Some, apparently realizing they were in trouble with the law, deleted their accounts only to discover their friends and family members had already taken screenshots of their selfies, videos and comments and sent them to the FBI.



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