



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 1/09 - 1/22

PA & Federal Updates

- There were 90,907 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 1/08, bringing the total case count to 794,172 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 PA counties. Statewide percent positivity for the week of January 8-14 sits at 12.7%, representing a 2.3% decrease in state positivity from December 25-31. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- This week, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) released version 5 of their [interim vaccine plan](#), expanding group 1a's vaccination designation to include anyone over 65 and people ages 16-64 with serious medical conditions that make them more at risk for severe illness due to COVID-19. This move will extend eligibility to approximately 3.5 million Pennsylvanians. [Read more](#).
- Following PA DOH's release of their updated plan, Cindy Findley, Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, stated in a Facebook Live broadcast, "We are hearing from our vaccine providers that they have vaccinated all the non-affiliated healthcare workers in their area. While at the same time, we are hearing from health workers that they have not been vaccinated." With the expansion of group 1a, we expect that all physicians and healthcare providers have been or are soon to be vaccinated; **We want to hear from you, our PA AAP members about your experience.** Please take a minute and complete a [short survey here](#) or email us at info@paaap.org. Seeing our members adequately protected against COVID-19 is our top priority.
- The PA AAP Chapter congratulates Dr. Rachel Levine on her nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services under the Biden Administration. We hope for a swift confirmation. Though her confirmation will be a loss for Pennsylvania, children and families nationwide will greatly benefit from Dr. Levine's presence in Washington. [Read more](#).
- With Dr. Levine's departure, Governor Wolf announces his intention to nominate Alison Beam as health secretary. He has also tapped Dr. Wendy Braund as Interim Acting Physician General. [Read more](#).
- CDC - New COVID-19 Variants - [read more](#).
- Governor Wolf launches retail pharmacy partnership in an effort to expand vaccine distribution. [Learn more](#).

- On January 22, PA DOH released a Health Alert with recommendations and considerations for point-of-care (POC) antigen testing, a less sensitive alternative to molecular testing (PCR). In issuing this instructional document, [found here](#), PA DOH recognizes the advantage of POC's rapid turnaround and advocates for its effective usage.

Updates from AAP and Other Guidance

- Visit the COVID-19 [web page on AAP.org](#) to find updated resources that address clinical guidance, practice management resources, including tele-health and coding, educational resources for clinicians and families, data reports, a discussion board, details on AAP advocacy efforts, and more. For questions or comments related to the pandemic, email COVID-19@aap.org.
- As of January 14, nearly 2.5 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 12.6% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. [Learn more.](#)
- **Updated AAP Guidance / Resources**
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Interactive Town Hall Series on COVID-19- The AAP hosts a [bi-weekly series of virtual town halls](#) linking members with leading experts to discuss emerging issues related to caring for patients and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Register for Session #11](#) on February 4, 2021, 7:00pm CT

Listen to Past Sessions:

- **Session #7:** December 3rd, 2020, Covid-19 Vaccine - [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **Session #8:** December 17, 2020, COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A - [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **Session #9,** January 7, 2021, COVID-19 and Safe Return to Schools: Q and A - [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **Session #10,** January 21, 2021, "Ask the Red Book" about COVID-19 - [Listen to the recording.](#)

Webinars



Let's Talk resumes on Wednesday, 1/27!

[Register now for:](#)

COVID Vaccines for Children

Wednesday, January 27th at 8 pm

Presenter:

Jeffrey S Gerber, MD, PhD, FAAP

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Division of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

In case you missed it:

"Let's Talk: Prioritizing Health Equity in Clinical Practice" | Katie Mcpeak, MD, FAAP, and Stacey Kallem, MD, FAAP, and Chinonyerem R Madu, MPH

[Listen to the recording](#)

"Let's Talk: Addressing Disparities in Immunization"

Kristen Feemster, MD, MPH, MSHP, FAAP & Johanna Vidal-Phelan, MD, MBA, FAAP

[Listen to the recording](#)

"Let's Talk: "Influenza: Disease, Immunization, and Working to Protect Families"

Richard Moriarty, MD, FAAP

[Listen to the recording](#)

Additionally:

Montgomery county hosted a town hall titled, "**Facts and Fear: COVID-19 Vaccine and the Black Community**" where Commissioner Valerie Arkoosh and several leaders and healthcare experts within the black community discussed the history and culture surrounding the community's distrust of health systems and vaccines. [Listen to the recording.](#)

You can listen to other recorded webinars [here](#)

Please visit our website at www.paaap.org for more resources and information on COVID-19 for Pennsylvania pediatric providers. We are doing our best to maintain up-to-date information as it becomes available.

PA AAP (COVID-19)

Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics | 484-446-3000

