**COVID-19 Update and Resources 9/18- 10/1**

Follow the PA AAP on social media to receive real-time updates on developments in school health and COVID-19 transmission, testing, and vaccinations in the Commonwealth.

**PA & Federal Updates**

- **There were** 65,045 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 9/17, bringing the total case count to 1,435,292 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week Sept. 17- 23 stood at 8.9%--a decrease from 9.1%, recorded Sept. 3 - 9. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).

- Questions around vaccine booster shots persist; the CDC approves and recommends the Pfizer booster shot for individuals over 65 and immuno-compromised adults, who're six months out from receiving the Pfizer vaccine, while [J&J recipients await word](#). See a breakdown from the CDC on booster shot eligibility [here](#).

- Experts ponder the mixing and matching of COVID-19 vaccines for booster shots. Read more [here](#).

- This week, the CDC issued a specific [Health Advisory](#) recommending urgent action to increase COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant people. Read more [here](#). [Click here](#) to view the PA Health Alert on this topic.

- [Estimates](#) suggest that the COVID-19 vaccine will be available for children aged 5-11 in the coming weeks; hospitals fear staffing shortages, which would [impact care coordination across departments](#). Learn more [here](#).

- Data confirm: masks are a critical strategy in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in schools. Read more from the CDC [here](#).

- Many [parents are eager](#) to vaccinate their children against COVID-19; however, a [recent poll](#) suggests that Black parents are most hesitant to have the COVID-19 administered to their children.

- For more from the Wolf Administration on the state's strategy to protect in-person instruction in schools, click [here](#).
Insurers are returning to pre-COVID coverage practices, leaving patients with large bills. Read more here.

The COVID-19 death toll has surpassed that of the 1918 flu. For more, click here.

See the following health updates from the PA Department of Health:

- Quarantine Recommendations After SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Test
- Response to an Outbreak and Residents with Exposure to COVID-19 for Long-term Care Facilities
- Core Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Long-term Care Facilities
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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 September 23, more than 5.7 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 16% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 200,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 26.7% of reported weekly cases. Read the latest report. Also, find the AAP’s latest report on Children and COVID-19 Vaccination Trends.

- Recently Updated from AAP:
  - Caring for Patients in Inpatient and Outpatient Settings During Episodes of Surge
  - Outpatient COVID-19 Management Strategies in Children and Adolescents
  - Providing Acute Care in the Ambulatory Setting During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Return to Sports

- Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
  - Youth Sports and COVID-19: Understanding the Risks
  - When Can Children Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?
  - Clinical Trials: One Family’s Experience During COVID-19

AAP 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.

- Click here to past sessions.

Let’s Talk

Webinars & Learning Opportunities

Coming up...

In case you missed it...

- Let’s Talk: "Review of the 2020 Focus"
Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines. View the recording [here](#).

- From the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy: "School-Located Vaccination Strategies to Increase Child and Adolescent Immunization Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic." View the recording [here](#).

- From the Center for Health Care Strategies: "Transforming Child Health Care Through Anti-Racist, Family-Driven Approaches." View the recording [here](#).

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

Please visit our website at [www.paaap.org](http://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.