With the impending COVID-19 vaccine EUA for children 5-11 y/o, we anticipate that there will be numerous press/media opportunities for PA AAP members to comment on the importance and safety of the vaccine.

We've had a number of PA AAP members engage with the press on behalf of the Chapter, such as Dr. Kate Tigue, MD, FAAP, pictured here, connecting with WNEP. If you’re able to and interested in participating in interviews in the coming days, please let us know with an email to info@paaap.org.

Vaccine clinics provide a great opportunity to engage the media; if your practice plans to host a clinic in the coming days/weeks, we ask that you let us know.

Check out PA AAP's press appearances on our social media channels and/or our newsroom.

PA & Federal Updates

- There were 55,335 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 10/15, bringing the total case count to 1,557,459 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of Oct. 15 - 21 stood at 9.2%--a decrease from 9.6%, recorded Oct. 1 - 7. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. here.

- If you submitted an pre-order request for the COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 y/o, your ancillary kits will include the following supplies and designations according to the AAP:
  - Administration Supplies:
    - All needles are 25 g 1-inch
    - 1-mL syringes
    - Sterile alcohol wipes
    - Record cards
    - Some PPE for HCP
  - Mixing Supplies:
    - 1.5-inch needles
    - 3- or 5-mL syringes
    - Sterile alcohol wipes
    - Diluent

- On Tuesday, November 26, a federal panel recommended the approval of EUA for Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for 5-11 y/o. The vote was unanimous with one abstention. Read more
According to immunobridging analysis from the FDA, the immune responses of 5-11 y/o (n=322) was comparable to that of 16-50 y/o (n=253). Learn more here.

Also of note: vaccine efficacy rests at 90.7%; 20% of subjects had co-morbid conditions; of the trial participants, 78% were white, 6% were Black or African American, 6% were Asian, and 21% were Hispanic or Latinx.

PA AAP recently conducted a brief survey of its members, inquiring after their experience with or interest in administering the COVID-19 vaccine. We learned the following from respondents:

- 50% of respondents indicated that they plan to host a vaccine clinic once the EUA is approved.
- Some practices are struggling with staff shortages and space to accommodate the post-immunization waiting/oversight period.
- The 300-dose requisite deterred smaller practices from placing a pre-order request.
- Many families have sought their vaccinations outside of the medical home, such as in pharmacies.

PA AAP received data from the PA Dept. of Health indicating that the following 11 counties did not submit a pre-order request for vaccines. If you practice in one of these counties and did not submit a request, please touch base with PA AAP at info@paaap.org; we’re eager to gain an insight into your experience with the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Pike, Snyder, Susquehanna, Venango, Warren, Wayne, Wyoming

Immunity does not translate to invincibility, confusing individuals and threatening their health. Read more here.

The PA Dept. of Health has issued the following advisories:

- Update: Point of Care Antigen Test Use and Interpretation
- Recommendations Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose
- Update: Public Health Recommendations Given New Evidence on the SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released its updated list of billing codes, payment allowances, and effective dates for the COVID-19 vaccine booster. See here.

The Wolf administration reported that 70% of Pennsylvanians 18 years and older are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Read more here.

Updates from AAP & 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 October 21, more than 6.3 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 16.5% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 118,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 25.1% of reported weekly cases. Read the latest report. Also, find the AAP’s latest report on Children and COVID-19 Vaccination Trends.

- New guidance from the AAP for pediatricians:
  - Outpatient Management Strategies in Children and Adolescents
Caring for Patients in Inpatient and Outpatient Settings During Episodes of Surge

Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
- If my child had COVID already, do they need the vaccine?
- When all four of our kids got COVID
- Was the COVID-19 vaccine rushed?
- My child is about to turn 12. Which COVID-19 vaccine should they get?
- Getting your child ready for the COVID-19 vaccine
- COVID-19 and kids: How mRNA vaccines work
  - Understanding mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

**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.
- [View the recording](#) from yesterday's Town Hall, where experts discussed the vaccine trial results and the imminent EUA.

**Webinars & Learning Opportunities**

**Coming up...**

- The AAP is hosting a webinar with the American Academy of Family Physicians on **Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m. ET** featuring White House officials including Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, FAAP, who will give updates about the vaccine rollout and answer member questions. To join the live stream event, simply go to the [AAP’s YouTube channel](#) at 8 p.m. ET next week.

- The next AAP COVID-19 Town Hall will be held at a special time; **Thursday, Nov. 4 at 6:00pm ET**. Register [here](#).

**In case you missed it...**

- The latest (10/28) AAP COVID-19 Town Hall; [listen to the recording](#).

- **A Conversation Between AAP Chapters:** COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 y/o & state vaccine roll-out strategy; [listen to the recording](#).


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.

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