



# Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## COVID-19 Update and Resources 1/21/22

Register today and receive the early-bird rate for PA AAP's 2022 Pediatric Conference, to be held in-person at the **Gettysburg Hotel** from **Saturday March 19 through Sunday, March 20!**

The theme of this year's conference is "**Practicing Pediatrics in a COVID World.**" We hope you will join us for a weekend filled with captivating conversations and thoughtful approaches to issues in pediatric care in this COVID era. For more information as well as registration and agenda details, click [here](#).

REGISTER HERE

As a part of our work with the PA Dept. of Health, we are assisting in isolating and addressing record inconsistencies within PA SIIS. And so we ask you to (anonymously) share with us what **Electronic Health Record (EHR)** vendor you utilize in your practice. If you have not yet responded, please let us know through [this one-question survey](#).

## PA & Federal Updates

- There were 316,690 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 1/7 bringing the total case count to 2,523,589 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- Please note the update to Moderna's label, see [here](#) (and right).
- Americans can now order COVID-19 rapid tests to be delivered to their homes, free of charge. This government-run service limits four test kits per household. Read more [here](#). Additionally, the Biden administration plans to [distribute 400 million N95 masks to Americans](#)--a response to the transmissibility of the omicron variant and a recent [recommendations from the CDC](#).
- When PA Dept. of Health added COVID-19 to the list of reportable communicable disease, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) released a series of regulations to which child care providers must adhere, including the following:

- "Any child or facility person reporting positive test results or showing symptoms of

What You Should Know about the Moderna Label Update



FDA recently approved updates to both label and the EUA fact sheet for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Distribution of the Moderna vials with the updated labels (see new label above) began during the week of January 13, 2022.

What has changed on the label of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:

- The label has been updated to indicate a volume of 0.5 mL.
- Doses for primary series and booster shots are now listed on the label.
- Important reminder not to exceed a maximum of 20 punctures per vial.

What remains the same for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:

- Formulation
- NDC (30777-210-09)
- Physical vial size
- Number of reportable doses
- Dose volumes (see below)
- Reporting requirements
  - Washage should continue to be reported based on 10 doses per vial.
- Proper dosage of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
  - Primary series doses 1 and 2 dosage = 0.5 mL
  - Additional primary dose (3<sup>rd</sup>) dosage for immunocompromised persons = 0.5 mL
  - Booster dosage = 0.25 mL
- Each vial can ONLY be punctured up to 20 times.
  - Once the vial has reached the 20-puncture limit, the vial should be discarded even if there is vaccine remaining in the vial.

Moderna Label Update

COVID-19 cannot be in attendance at the child care facility. Upon return, the individual must provide a written note or a negative test result signed and verified by a physician or nurse practitioner (CRNP) clearing them to return to the child care facility." Read more [here](#).

- The PA AAP recognizes the administrative burden that this places on many practices. We continue discussions with our partners at OCDEL and the PA Dept. of Health to address these burdens and work towards a resolution.
- To help practices, the following statement is an example of a note to provide to patients requesting this for return to child care. The bolded items are meant to be personalized according to each case. "Please note **PATIENT NAME** had a positive COVID-19 **TEST TYPE** performed on **DATE**. The patients symptoms began on **DATE**. They must fully isolate until **DATE** and can then come out of isolation if fever-free for >24 hours without fever reducing medication and all other symptoms are improving. They must wear a mask at all times around other people for an additional 5 days. If that is not possible at the child care facility, then they must fully isolate until **DATE**."
- CHOP PolicyLab released new mitigation guidance for early care and education (ECE) settings that reflect current COVID-19-related data. See [here](#).
- See the [following guidance](#) from the PA Dept. of Education on responding to COVID-19 case(s) in schools.
- The AAP has been working with UnitedHealthcare (UHC) on underpayment for COVID-19 testing. UHC has confirmed that any providers who previously completed the diagnostic COVID-19 testing amendment in 2021 will continue to see increased payment through the end of the public health emergency.
  - Any providers who did not previously complete the UHC diagnostic COVID-19 testing amendment in 2021 can contact UHC at [covidpediatrictest@uhc.com](mailto:covidpediatrictest@uhc.com) or 866-229-2921 to show proof of underpayment and request increased payment for COVID-19 testing in 2022. The amendment will become effective following first of the month after they sign.
- Are we close to seeing the peak of the omicron wave? The answer differs by state. Read more [here](#).
- The state continues to ramp up testing efforts across the Commonwealth, including opening new testing sites in the [southeastern](#) and [southcentral](#) regions of PA.
- A study analyzing hospitalization data from one of the largest medical insurance programs in South Africa suggests that the omicron variant may be more dangerous than other, earlier COVID-19 variants. Learn more [here](#).
- The PA Dept. of Health released an update on "Therapeutics to Prevent and Treat COVID-19." Read more [here](#).
- The National AAP confirms that nearly 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in children--just last week. Read more [here](#).
- Is your practice using expired COVID-19 rapid tests? Verify [here](#).
- Learn more [here](#) about a new tool for health care professionals, equipping providers with an interactive COVID-19 vaccine conversation module.

- 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](mailto:COVID-19@aap.org).
- As of January 13, more than 9.5 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 17.8% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 1 million new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 21.4% of reported weekly cases. [Read the latest report](#). Also, find the AAP's latest report on [Children and COVID-19 Vaccination Trends](#).
- New & updated guidance from the AAP for pediatricians:
  - [PPE Guidance](#)
- Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
  - [Does omicron affect children differently than other COVID variants, and how concerned should I be?](#)
  - [What do I need to know about COVID vaccines for kids age 5-11?](#)
  - [Is it safe for families to travel now?](#)

**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.

## Reminder on Vaccine Packaging & Storage

As it has been several months since the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years of age, we wanted to circle back with the FDA's guidance on the storage and packaging of the vaccine. Additional details can be found in the CDC's [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#).

See [here](#) for guidance from the PA Dept. of Health on inventory management.

How to refrigerate these vaccine doses?

For guidance on the storage and handling of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (for children 5-11-years), click [here](#).

How does dosing differ from that of the vaccine administered to individuals 12 years and older?

The 5-11 vaccine will be 1/3 of the adult dose (10mcg), packaged as a new product with a new NDC code. The Pfizer vaccine for ages 12+ cannot be used in place of the 5-11 vaccine.

Age Group	Storage	Handling
5-11 years	Refrigerate at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F)	Do not shake. Do not freeze. Do not use if frozen.
12 years and older	Refrigerate at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F)	Do not shake. Do not freeze. Do not use if frozen.

The containers will have orange caps, distinct from the purple and gray caps of the vaccines currently available for 12 years and older.



### Coming up...

- [Save-the-date](#) for the upcoming Facebook Live on "**Pediatric and Adolescent COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth 5-21**," presented by the PA AAP and the PA Immunization Coalition (PAIC) on **Thursday, January 27 at 7:00pm ET**. Speakers include Drs. Mary Ann Rigas, MD, FAAP and Swathi Gowtham, MD, FAAP, Tracy Palazzotto from Parents of the PA Family Alliance, and Kelly King from the PEAL Center.

### In case you missed it...

- From PA AAP & PA Medical Home Program: Let's Talk: "**ADHD and Other Disruptive Behavior Disorders within Primary Care of the Medical Home**," with Dr. Justin Schreiber, DO, MPH, FAAP; [listen to the recording](#).
- From PA AAP & PAIC: Let's Talk: "**COVID-19 Update: Kids, Omicron & Boosters**," with Dr. Paul Offit, MD, FAAP; [listen to the recording](#).

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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.

PA AAP (COVID-19)

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