



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 11/20- 12/03

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court will readdress the matter of masking in schools & daycare settings on Dec. 8.

The PA AAP hopes the PA Supreme Court will vote to sustain the mandate and has signed onto an amicus brief, asserting the efficacy of masks in preventing viral transmission. Real-time updates on the state of the mandate will be posted to the Chapter's social media channels.



PA & Federal Updates

- There were 97,072 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 11/19 bringing the total case count to 1,763,796 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of Nov. 19 - 25 stood at 12.1%--an increase from 10.3%, recorded Nov. 5 - 11. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- "Everyone ages 18 and older should get a [COVID-19] booster shot," [says CDC officials](#) as Pfizer, supercharged by the Omicron variant, seeks FDA approval to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to receive booster shots. Read more [here](#).
- As predicted, the Omicron variant has [surfaced in the U.S.](#) The efficacy of the vaccine in preventing the spread of and illness from Omicron remains to be seen. Learn more [here](#).
- The PA AAP and PAIC adapted our [parent guide](#) on the COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 y/o for Spanish-speaking parents, see [here](#).
- The White House will launch initiatives to assist in vaccinating more children against COVID-19, including dedicating federal funding to vaccine counseling for children from low-income families. Learn more [here](#).
- Until last week, the number of adults reportedly vaccinated against COVID-19 in Pennsylvania was incorrect--an overshoot of the actual total. Current reports reflect an accurate count. Read more [here](#).
- The FDA advisory panel "narrowly endorses Merck's oral COVID treatment pill." Learn more [here](#).

Updates from AAP & Other Guidance

- Visit the COVID-19 [web page on AAP.org](https://www.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 November 25, more than 6.9 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 17% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 132,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 24.6% 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:
 - [Family Presence Policies for Inpatient Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Outpatient COVID Management Strategies in Children and Adolescents](#)
 - [Caring for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Answers to Lingering Questions about Vaccinating 5- to 11-year-olds](#)
- Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
 - [Does the COVID-19 vaccine protect kids from variants of the virus?](#)
 - [My partner and I got COVID-19 vaccines while I was pregnant, but is it safe for our newborn to be around unvaccinated people?](#)
 - [My kids are worried that their sports seasons may be on hold again because of COVID. How can I help them cope?](#)

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.



Webinars & Learning Opportunities

Coming up...

- **Wednesday, December 8, 12:00pm ET:**
CHOP's Vaccine Education Center: "Current Issues in Vaccines - Winter 2021" with Dr. Paul Offit, MD, FAAP. Register [here](#).
- **Thursday, December 9, 12:00pm ET:**
PA AAP Let's Talk webinar: "Strategies to Improve Maternal COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake While Pregnant and Breastfeeding." Register [here](#).
- **Friday, December 10, 12:00pm ET:**
Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania: "COVID-19 Vaccines: One Year Later." Click [here](#) for details.

In case you missed it...

- PA AAP Let's Talk Webinar: "Climate Change & Child Health," [listen to the recording](#). Please note that the audio in the first few minutes of the recording contains an echo. We apologize for the inconvenience.
- The Weitzman Institute: "Supporting Staff During COVID-19," [listen to the recording](#).

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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