



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 1/23 - 2/05

Are you connected with us on social media? If not, be sure to follow and interact with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), where you will find up-to-date info on COVID-19 and Chapter programming.

PA & Federal Updates

Transmission

- There were 67,499 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 1/22, bringing the total case count to 861,674 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of January 22-28 sits at 9.3%, representing a 3.4% decrease in state positivity from January 8-14 and 5.7% decrease from December 25-31, 2020. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- Research out of Harvard University suggests that a prior episode of pneumonia "appears to be a surprisingly strong indicator of whether someone infected with COVID-19 faces a higher risk of severe disease and death." This situates pneumonia as the top predictor of death from COVID-19 behind patient age. Read more [here](#).
- [Data increasingly indicates](#) that individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 retain antibodies for at least six months following transmission. Those infected may not be the only ones benefitting from such protective immunity; recent studies out of the University of Pennsylvania suggest that antibodies can be transferred through the placenta. Researchers observe that the level of antibody transferal may be tied to the point at which the mother contracted COVID-19 in their pregnancy. Read more [here](#).
- To aid in contact-tracing efforts and reduce transmission rates across all 67 counties, the PA DOH requests that Pennsylvanians download the [COVID Alert PA app](#). Read more about the app [here](#).
- The PA DOH continues to expand access to testing through its weekly rotation of regional testing sites; on Friday, February 5, 2021, regional drive-thru and indoor walk-in testing clinics will open in Blair, Columbia, Elk/Cameron, Sullivan, and York counties. To learn more about the state's rotational program for pop-up testing sites, visit [here](#).

Community Impact

- A report from the CDC indicates that individuals within the LGBTQ+ community have a higher risk of experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19. "Persons

who are members of both sexual minority and racial/ethnic minority groups might therefore experience a convergence of distinct social, economic, and environmental disadvantages that increase chronic disease disparities and the risk for adverse COVID-19-related outcomes." Find the report [here](#). To learn more about immunization issues in the LGBTQ+ community, [register](#) for our **Let's Talk webinar**, "Immunization Issues in LGBTQ+ Communities," scheduled for March 2, 2021 at 12:00pm.

- As community leaders around the country urge schools to recommit to in-person learning, data suggests a safe pathway to achieve such an aim exists [despite barriers](#). CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky also notes that teachers need not be vaccinated before schools reopen. Read more [here](#).
- Inequity surrounding the vaccine rollout persists, leaving poorer neighborhoods and communities of color less equipped to combat and protect against COVID-19. *The New York Times* reports on the latest [here](#).
- NPR's recent story on parents' and educators' growing concern surrounding child suicide undergirds PA AAP's dedication to improving pediatric mental health services--a key pillar in the Chapter's [Blueprint for Children](#). Read more from NPR [here](#).

Vaccine

- [Johnson & Johnson awaits authorization](#) from FDA to administer its one-dose vaccine, which has an overall effectiveness of 66%. Efficacy levels range regionally, [suggesting](#) the vaccine cannot adequately protect against variants.
- The Biden administration sets its sights on an ambitious goal: vaccinating every American 16 years and older by the end of the summer (2021). Read more about the administration's vaccination efforts [here](#).

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 telehealth 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 28, nearly 2.82 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 12.8% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. [Learn more](#).
- Updated AAP Guidance / Resources: [COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- New from healthychildren.org: (1) [When can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?](#); (2) [How can I help my child avoid eye and back strain from being on the computer?](#); (3) [Indoor Play Ideas: Fun Ways for Families to Connect This Winter](#)

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.

- [Register](#) for Session #12 on February 18, 2021, 7:00pm CT

Listen to Past Sessions:

- **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 & A - [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **Session #10,** January 21, 2021, "Ask the Red Book" about COVID-19 - [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **Session #11,** February 4, 2021, "Addressing Uncertainty: Looking Ahead to Year 2" - [Listen to the recording.](#)

Webinars



Save the date for our next Let's Talk webinar: **Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 8:00-9:00pm ET**
Details to come...!

In case you missed it:

- **"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](#)
- **"Let's Talk: COVID Vaccines for Children,"** Jeffrey S. Gerber, MD, PhD, FAAP; [Listen to the recording](#)

Additionally:

- **"Protecting the Public with Limited COVID-19 Vaccine Supply: 1 or 2 Doses?"** In this short audio clip, Dr. Paul Offit of CHOP explains what is missing from discussions considering giving more people a single dose of the limited COVID-19 vaccine supply, compared with fewer people getting two doses, as originally recommended. [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **"When Healthcare 'Heroes' Need Help: Destigmatizing Mental Illness in the Healthcare Workforce,"** In this webinar from The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, panelists explore the ways in which the pandemic has exacerbated a mental-health crisis for the American healthcare workforce, and steps we can take to prevent, assess, and address the significant mental and behavioral health consequences of caregiving. [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.

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