



# Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## COVID-19 Update and Resources 2/6 - 2/19

**Biweekly Bright Spot:** Europe's oldest (recorded) person--a nun from France--[survived COVID-19 at 116 years old](#), overcoming the disease weeks before her 117th birthday. To read more highlights of heartwarming stories such as this, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).



## Save the Date: PA AAP's Annual Pediatric Conference



Register Today for  
PA AAP's Virtual  
2021 Pediatric Conference

Dress code: *Work-from-home chic*

Throw on your coziest, Zoom-friendly outfit and join us for our annual conference! The 2021 Pediatric Conference, presented virtually by the PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, brings together pediatric providers from across the state to engage with and learn from one another about recent developments in pediatric health care. Register now for a day filled with captivating conversations and thoughtful approaches to issues in pediatric care.

**REGISTER HERE**

## PA & Federal Updates

### Transmission

- There were 47,099 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 2/05, bringing the total case count to 908,773 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of February 5-11 sits at 8%, representing a 0.6% decrease in state positivity from January 29 - February 4 and 1.3% decrease from January 22-28. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- According to recent [research](#), one in three COVID-19 patients that survive after being put on a ventilator report experiencing symptoms of PTSD. [Read more here](#).
- Double-masking is in; [read more here](#) and jump on the trend!

## **Vaccine**

- Due to miscommunication between state officials and vaccine providers, over 100,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine were mistakenly administered as first doses; they were intended to be second doses for halfway inoculated Pennsylvanians, delaying the date of that group's second shot. While the first and second vaccine doses are interchangeable, this misstep is expected to impact vaccine accessibility for eligible Pennsylvanians for weeks to come. [Read more here](#). To learn more about second dose administration and timing from the PA DOH, [click here](#).
- The PA DOH has [reallocated vaccines](#) to providers that have proven, according to the department, to be the most effective at vaccinating large swaths of the community, narrowing the number of vaccine providers in PA from 1,000+ to 200-300. This move comes after [reports](#) that Pennsylvania ranks among the worst in state vaccine administration.
- Utilizing the Defense Production Act, the Biden administration has announced several plans to increase vaccine distribution and testing availability, including deploying 1,110 troops to support vaccination sites. [The Washington Post reports here](#).
- FEMA expects to open a [mass vaccination site at Philadelphia's Convention Center](#) in early March. Also out of Philadelphia: the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium will be hosting a 24-hour "vaxathon" from Friday, February 19 at noon through Saturday, February 20 at noon. This effort, which will operate on a first-come, first-serve basis out of Temple University's Liacouras Center, highlights the issue of racial equity surrounding COVID-19. [Read more here](#).
- [Experts are predicting](#) that children won't be vaccinated for COVID-19 until 2022 despite AstraZeneca beginning its vaccine trials for children ages 6-17. [Read more about the pharmaceutical company's pediatric vaccination efforts here](#).
- Another reason to promote the efficacy of the seasonal flu shot: a new study reveals that (flu) inoculated children are at a lower risk of experiencing severe illness as a result of COVID-19. [Read more here](#).
- For updated PA DOH recommendations on quarantine post-vaccination, [click here](#).

## **Community Impact**

- To learn more about "boosting vaccine confidence in multicultural patient communities," [click here](#). Included are helpful links in Spanish.
- The CDC has released [new guidelines](#) to achieve a safe reopening of schools across the US. Guidelines hinge on community transmission rates and key mitigation factors. [Read teachers' and fellow physicians' responses here](#).

## **Variants**

- The Biden administration has pledged \$200 million to COVID variant tracking efforts, framing the move as a "down payment" on fighting emerging threats. [Read more from The New York Times here](#). Also, the White House COVID-19 Response Team has announced its plans to increase domestic testing capabilities by partnering with six companies to produce at-home COVID tests. [Read more here](#).

- For updated analyses on the U.K. variant and its mortality rate, [click 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 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 February 11, nearly 3.03 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 13% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. [Learn more](#).
- Updated AAP Guidance / Resources: [COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**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 #13 on March 4, 2021, 7:00pm CT

### Listen to Past Sessions:

- **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](#).
- **Session #12**, February 18, 2021, "What's Happening to the Children" - [Listen to the recording](#).

## Webinars



[Register](#) for our next Let's Talk webinar:

Date: **Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 8:00-9:00pm ET**

Speaker: Robert Mangano, MD, FAAP, of Geisinger Heart Institute will present on "**Cardiac Complications of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Children and Teens**"

### 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:**

- Montgomery county hosted a town hall titled, **"The Latino Community & COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall,"** where Commissioner Valerie Arkoosh and several leaders and healthcare experts within the Latino community discuss the latest on prevention and vaccines. [Listen to the recording](#).
- The *New York Times*' podcast *The Daily* explores the question, "When will children be vaccinated?" on its February 19th episode, **"Children and COVID."** [Listen to the recording](#).

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

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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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