



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

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COVID-19 Update and Resources 3/20- 4/2



Representative Torren Ecker, of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, is set to offer an amendment to [House Bill 605](#), providing for the expedited and efficient resolution of lawsuits arising out of exposure to COVID-19. The amendment issues limited civil immunity from liability for health care providers for actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge you to contact your legislator, who can found [here](#), by Monday 4/5, communicating your support for Rep. Ecker's amendment.

PA & Federal Updates

Happy Passover and Easter to all those who celebrate!

- There were 53,104 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 3/19, bringing the total case count to 1,033,406 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of March 19 - 25 has increased to 7.6%. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- Starting April 19th, all Pennsylvanians (16+) will be eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment. This opening in the state's vaccine distribution plan follows the news that residents in Phase 1B can schedule an appt. as of April 5th and Phase 1C as of April 12th. [Read more here](#) on the PA Dept. of Health's (DOH) announcement.
- The PA (DOH) has release updated guidance on summer camps and recommendations for social-distancing in K-12 schools. [Read more here](#). View below the AAP's guidance on the same subjects.
- Recent reports suggest that PA COVID-19 vaccination rates are largely county-dependent, leaving many residents of "rural" counties, which account for 72% of all PA counties, increasingly less protected against the virus than the residents of the state's urban and suburban areas. [Learn more here](#) about the factors contributing to the disparate immunization rates.
- **Legado de los Lideres** *The Philadelphia Inquirer* released its special report on the importance of Latino leadership, acting as "an ongoing tribute and healing experience for residents in the Greater Philadelphia area, to help preserve the legacy of community leaders" amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This report honors the Latino community leaders lost within the last year. [Read more here](#).
- Are kids the key to herd immunity? [Learn more here](#).

- The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has launched a trial to gauge "how well COVID-19 vaccines diminish risk of transmitting the infection." While it is known that the vaccines are effective at preventing symptomatic cases, the degree to which vaccinated individuals can be infected and transmit the virus is uncertain. [Read more here.](#)
- Learn about the ways the COVID-19 pandemic can *aid* in a child's brain development [here.](#)
- "Race to Produce COVID Vaccine May Cause Measles Jabs Shortage," [read more 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Projection

- Tentatively projecting authorization of COVID-19 vaccine for 12 years and up by summer 2021.
- Pfizer/BioNTech likely to be authorized first – 2 doses 3 weeks apart.
- Co-administration with other vaccines unlikely - "black out period" (14 days prior, 3 weeks in between COVID vaccine doses, 14 days after)

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- As of March 25, nearly 3.4 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 13.4% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Over 64,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported last week. Despite a steady decline of cases over the last two months, there was a slight increase in reported case last week. [Read the latest report.](#)
- [#CallYourPediatrician](#): Updated AAP Chapter Toolkit aimed at encouraging families to get caught up on their children's routine immunizations and well-child check-ups.
- AAP News reports that the Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine was "safe and 100% effective in protecting adolescents ages 12-15 in a phase 3 trial." [Read more here.](#)
- Updated AAP Guidance:
 - [Camp Attendance During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Safe Schools](#)

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 #15 on April 8, 2021, 8:00pm ET
- [Click here](#) to past sessions.

Webinars



Save the date(s) for our Let's Talk Community Forum series--to be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. We'll see you on April 14th and again on the 28th!

In case you missed it:

- "Let's Talk: Toddlers who Overdose," Joanne N. Wood, MD, FAAP; Cindy Christian, MD, FAAP; Richard Hamilton, MD, FAAEM, FACMT, FACEP; [Listen to the recording.](#)
- "Let's Talk: Infection Prevention and Control: Risk Recognition and Communication," Susan Coffin, MD,

MPH, FAAP; [Listen to the recording](#).

- "Let's Talk: Cardiac Complications of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Children and Teens," Robert Mangano, MD, FAAP; [Listen to the recording](#).
 - "Let's Talk: Addressing Disparities in Immunization," Kristen Feemster, MD, MPH, MSHP, FAAP & Johanna Vidal-Phelan, MD, MBA, FAAP; [Listen to the recording](#).
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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.

PA AAP (COVID-19)

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