



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 4/17- 4/30

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, children's mental health has suffered greatly. Recognizing this disturbing trend, the Chapter has made improving access to and quality of mental health care our #1 priority for this year's state Advocacy Day



[Register here](#) for the virtual event on Monday, May 24.

Stay connected with us on social for updates on this upcoming opportunity to connect with your state legislators.

PA & Federal Updates

- There were 52,503 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 4/16, bringing the total case count to 1,151,005 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of April 16 - 22 has decreased from 9.5% (April 2 - 8) to 8.6%. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- Following updated guidance from the CDC and FDA on the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine, PA has resumed its use. Read more about the DOH's response [here](#). The CDC offers recommendations to those who have received the J&J vaccine; [learn more here](#).
- With the US [averaging 2.7 million](#) COVID vaccines shots per day, experts address the possibility of and barriers to herd immunity. [Read more here](#).
- COVID-19 has exacerbated the opioid crisis in PA. Read about the state's response [here](#).
- Responding to [an outbreak of COVID-19](#) in a long-term care facility (LTCF), the PA DOH has released guidance on infection control and prevention. While this guidance is specific for LTCFs, it may also be applicable to other congregate and residential settings. [Learn more here](#).
- Aligned with CDC guidance, the PA DOH has updated its mask mandate, relaxing recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals. Find the list of safe, mask-less activities for those vaccinated [here](#).
- As vaccine hesitancy grows, the Wolf Administration aims to build confidence, partnering with community leaders to communicate information on vaccines. [Learn more here](#).
- In India, COVID-19 overwhelms hospitals, foreign aid arrives to devastating realities, and concern over the "double variant" grows. [Read more here](#).
- [Research suggests](#) that likelihood of pregnant mothers passing on COVID-19 to their babies is low; however, transmission could result in preterm births. Nevertheless, the [CDC recommends](#) that pregnant women get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The issue of access to care persists in rural America; as COVID-19 vaccine eligibility extends to 16- and

17-year-olds, the trend maintains. [Read more here.](#)

- Will a COVID-19 booster really be inevitable? [Experts weigh in 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.
- As of April 22, nearly 3.71 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 13.7% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Over 79,886 new child COVID-19 cases were reported last week. [Read the latest report.](#)
- Updated guidance from AAP on:
 - [Camp attendance](#)
 - [Resources to prepare your practice for the COVID-19 vaccine for children](#)

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 #17 on May 13, 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 next on May 12th!

In case you missed it:

- "Let's Talk: Infection Prevention and Control: COVID-19 Considerations at the One Year Mark," Susan Coffin, MD, MPH, FAAP with [Project Firstline](#); [Listen to the recording.](#)
- "Let's Talk: Stopping the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic," Paul Offit, MD, FAAP; [Listen to the recording.](#)
- "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.](#)

Coming up:

- CHOP's "Pediatric Partners COVID-19 Town Hall: Vaccines, Trials, MISC-C, The New Normal," [learn more here.](#)

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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