



# Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## COVID-19 Update and Resources 5/1- 5/14

Following the AAP's release of its [updated Policy Statement](#) on "COVID Vaccines in Children and Adolescents," AAP President Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP said, "We've seen the harm done to children's mental and emotional health as they've missed out on so many experiences during the pandemic."

Though the authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine for children 12+ will allow more activities to resume, children's struggles with mental health--diagnosed or otherwise--in the last year will not dissipate. The Chapter recognizes this persistent issue and so has made improving access to and quality of mental health care our #1 priority for this year's **state Advocacy Day**.

There's still time [to register](#) 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.



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## PA & Federal Updates

- There were 30,274 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 4/30, bringing the total case count to 1,181,279 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of April 30 - May 6 has decreased from 8.6% (April 16 - 22) to 6.6%. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- The CDC released new guidance on masking for fully vaccinated people. [Read more here](#) about their updated recommendations, which allude to "prior to the pandemic" activities. Also, the PA DOH's mask order reflects that of the CDC. [Learn more here](#).
- The PA DOH echoes the CDC and AAP, encouraging all vaccine providers to begin administering the COVID-19 vaccines to children 12-years and older. [For the latest, visit here](#).
- Can we anticipate a nasal vaccine for COVID-19? [Read more here](#).
- The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) compiled a list of resources on back-to-school and catch-up immunizations. [Learn more here](#).
- [Listen here](#) to Johanna Vidal-Phelan, MD, FAAP discuss with WITF the Chapter's joint effort with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition (PAIC) and the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) to promote the safety and efficacy of all vaccines in Latino communities across PA.
- "We swore an oath to do no harm and we see that by modifying the [vaccine] schedule in a way that's not evidence-based is basically providing substandard care and a violation of our oath" -- Gabriel Cisneros, MD, FAAP, PA AAP Advocacy Committee Co-Chair. Read more of Dr. Cisneros' interview with WITF [here](#). The Chapter applauds Dr. Vidal-Phelan, Dr. Cisneros, and many others on their work educating the

public on COVID-19 and its vaccine.

- Visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [webpage](#) for updated resources on the COVID-19 vaccine. Resources include, among others, CMS, HHS, and CDC materials. [View here](#).
- Though specific to Montgomery County, PA, the following resource, available in 13 languages, communicates key facts about the COVID-19 vaccine. See the available languages below:
  - [Arabic](#)
  - [Burmese](#)
  - [Chinese](#)
  - [English](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [French](#)
  - [Haitian](#)
  - [Korean](#)
  - [Karen](#)
  - [Nepali](#)
  - [Russian](#)
  - [Swahili](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
- Scientists chart the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 to predict what might happen next. [Read more here](#).

## Updates from AAP and Other Guidance

- With the Emergency Use Authorization of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for children 12-15, the AAP has updated its guidance on "COVID Vaccines in Children and Adolescents." [Read the policy statement here](#).
  - Key takeaways: (1) AAP recommends the COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications using a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for their age
  - (2) Any COVID-19 vaccine authorized through Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA, recommended by the CDC, and appropriate by age and health status can be used for COVID-19 vaccination in children and adolescents.
  - (3) Given the importance of routine vaccination and the need for rapid uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, the AAP supports co-administration of routine childhood and adolescent immunizations with COVID-19 vaccines (or vaccination in the days before or after) for children and adolescents who are behind, on, or due for immunizations (based on the CDC/AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule) and/or at increased risk from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- 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 May 6, nearly 3.85 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 14% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Over 72,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported last week. [Read the latest report](#).
- Updated guidance from AAP and HealthyChildren.org on:
  - [Getting Your Children Ready for the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

**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 #19 on May 27, 2021, 8:00pm ET
- [Click here](#) to past sessions.



**Save the date(s)** for our Let's Talk Community Forum series--to be held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month.

We'll see you next on **May 26th** for our conversation on the **"Impacts of the COVID Pandemic on the Developmental-Behavioral Care of Children,"** with **Sandhya Iyengar, MD, MPH, FAAP**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine; Attending Physician, Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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In case you missed it:

- "Let's Talk: "Marijuana and the Pediatric Population: Weeding through the Weeds," Sheryl Ryan, MD, FAAP; [Listen to the recording.](#)
- "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.](#)

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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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