



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 5/15- 5/28

Several weeks ago, Representative Zimmerman of Lancaster County proposed HB 958, aka the "Immunization Freedom Act," which sought to penalize practitioners who decline care for children and families who opt for an alternative vaccination schedule. View the Chapter's opposition letter [here](#).



At present, the bill has been tabled and so its fate is in flux in the Legislature. PA AAP is monitoring the bill and we will keep you posted on calls to action. Follow us on social media for real time updates.

PA & Federal Updates

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

- There were 19,264 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 5/14, bringing the total case count to 1,200,543 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of May 14 -20 has decreased from 6.6% (April 30 - May 6) to 4.5%. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- The FDA approved the refrigeration of thawed, undiluted Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for one month; a move that will, in hopes, broaden dissemination of the vaccine. Read more [here](#).
- View the data on COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections reported to the CDC [here](#).
- Following review of Pennsylvania's vaccination data, Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam announced that "the commonwealth's mask order can be lifted on June 28 or when 70 percent of adults get their second dose, whichever comes first." Read more from the PA DOH's statement [here](#).
- Data from Moderna's vaccine trial in children 12+ suggest that a second vaccine might soon be available for adolescents. Read more [here](#).
- Find CDC's guidance on domestic travel [here](#). Also from the CDC: [toolkit for summer camps](#)
- In the event that your patient develops Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome Associated with COVID-19, utilize [this Case Report Form](#) to notify your state (717-772-6975, ra-dhccovidcontact@pa.gov) or local health department.
- A recent study suggests that patients who've recovered from COVID-19 experience persistent, broadly reactive immunity--for around six months post-infection. Learn more [here](#).



- COVID-19 has proven to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including homeless and transient peoples. [Find here](#) the CDC's guidance for state and local health departments on vaccination implementation in homeless communities.
- View the "Vaccine Outreach Toolkit for Pennsylvania" from the PA DOH [here](#).
- The PA DOH encourages clinical practices to enroll in the COVID Vx program ASAP. This includes practices currently participating in the VFC program. To enroll, complete this [Provider Agreement form](#). Find a preview of the form [here](#) but note that the application need be submitted online.
- The infographic above was developed by the VA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics' School Reopening Task Force as a resource for practitioners in their conversations with parents on the COVID-19 vaccine. We thank the VA AAP for granting permission to use these infographics. [Click here](#) to download these materials to use in your conversations with families, on social, etc.

Updates from AAP and Other Guidance

- AAP advises pediatricians to report anycases of heart inflammation after COVID-19 vaccination; a number of adolescents have experienced mild heart inflammation following their mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. Read more [here](#).
- AAP launches "Becoming a COVID-19 Vaccinator" video series. Check out the [videos in this series](#) to find answers to common questions about administering COVID-19 vaccine in pediatric practice settings.
 - Last week's session featured PA AAP member SanandMenon, MD, FAAP of Reading, along with Suzanne Berman, MD, FAAP, Chair of SOAPM. View their conversation [here](#).
- 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 May 20, more than 3.94 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 14.1% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Over 40,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported last week. [Read the latest report](#).
- Updated guidance from AAP and HealthyChildren.org on:
 - [Face Masks for Children During COVID-19](#)
 - [The Science Behind the COVID-19 Vaccine: Parent FAQs](#)

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 #20 on June 10, 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 & 4th Wednesday of each month.

We'll see you next on **June 2** for "**Infection Prevention Control and CYSHCN: Minimizing Risk While Meeting Ongoing Needs,**" with **Renee M. Turchi, MD, MPH, FAAP.**

This program was developed in conjunction with the **PA Medical Home Program** and **CDC's**

REGISTER

In case you missed it:

- "Let's Talk: "Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Developmental-Behavioral Care of Children," Sandhya Iyengar, MD, MPH, FAAP; Kate Wallis, MD, MPH, FAAP; [Listen to the recording.](#)
- "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.](#)

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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