



# Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## COVID-19 Update and Resources 11/6- 11/12

As you might've seen this afternoon, PA AAP President Dr. Trude Haecker, MD, FAAP and Chapter Immunization Representative/Champion Dr. Swathi Gowtham, MD, FAAP joined Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson on a Facebook Live event with the Department of Health to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine. There were more than 200 live participants!



Thank you, Drs. Haecker and Gowtham, for leading this effort to educate PA parents and caregivers on the VAX facts, dispelling some of the common myths circulating across the Commonwealth.



## Governor Wolf Plans to Lift School Mask Mandate

Earlier this week, [Governor Wolf announced](#) that the Pennsylvania Department of Health will be lifting the statewide school mask mandate on January 17, 2022. The PA AAP has communicated our explicit disapproval of this decision, citing the lack of evidence to support such a move. See our press release [here](#). Chapter leaders have also expressed their disagreement to members of the media. For example, see our School Health Committee Co-Chair Dr. Tina Master's comment [here](#).

Given Governor Wolf's recent announcement, the Chapter will continue to advocate that schools enforce the mandate and promote the efficacy of a multi-layer mitigation strategy. We hope that, in continuing to partner with the Department of Health, our stance will be more widely received.

## PA & Federal Updates

- There were 33,394 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 11/5 bringing the total case count to 1,618,870 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of Oct. 29 - Nov. 4 stood at 9.3%--an increase from 8.8%, recorded Oct. 22 - 28. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- This week, the Commonwealth Court issued a ruling voiding Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam's mask order. The state has filed an appeal, triggering a stay of the Court's ruling and so sustaining the mask mandate. Read more [here](#).
- See [here](#) the CDC's resource center for information related to the COVID-19 vaccines for

children and teens.

- Debates over vaccine mandates persist; read more [here](#).
- The office of Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released a toolkit on "Addressing Health Misinformation"; learn more [here](#).

## Updates from AAP & 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 November 4, more than 6.5 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 16.7% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 107,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 24.0% of reported weekly cases. [Read the latest report](#). Also, find the AAP's latest report on [Children and COVID-19 Vaccination Trends](#).
- New guidance from the AAP for pediatricians:
  - (Updated) [Outpatient COVID-19 Management Strategies in Children and Adolescents](#)
- Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
  - [Does the COVID-19 vaccine protect kids from variants of the virus like delta and delta plus?](#)
  - [My kids are worried that their sports seasons may be on hold again because of COVID. How can I help them cope?](#)
  - [My partner and I got COVID-19 vaccines while I was pregnant, but is it safe for our newborn to be around unvaccinated people?](#)
  - [What side effects might my child have after a 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.

- [Click here](#) to past sessions.



## Webinars & Learning Opportunities

Coming up...

- Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs hosts daily "Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training for All Providers with a Focus on Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5 through 11 Years of Age," see the following dates and respective meeting links:
  - [Monday, November 15, 5:00pm ET](#)
  - [Tuesday, November 16, 5:00pm ET](#)
  - [Wednesday, November 17, 12:00pm ET](#)
  - [Thursday, November 18, 12:00pm ET](#)
  - [Friday, November 19, 12:00pm ET](#)
  - [Monday, November 22, 5:00pm ET](#)
  - [Tuesday, November 23, 5:00pm ET](#)
  - [Wednesday, November 24, 12:00pm ET](#)

- **Monday, November 22, 2021: Public Health Thank You Day** with the PA Dept. of Health: designed to show appreciation for all public health workers across the Commonwealth. Learn more [here](#).
  - **NEW DATE: Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 8:00pm ET:** Let's Talk webinar: "Climate Change & Child Health," [register today](#).
  - **Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 12:00pm ET:** PA AAP Let's Talk webinar: "Strategies to Improve Maternal COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake While Pregnant and Breastfeeding." Register [here](#).
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In case you missed it...

- MedPage Today: **COVID Vax Now Widely Available for Young Kids -- Will Parents Consent?** with guest Dr. Paul Offit, MD, FAAP; [listen to the recording](#).
  - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid: **COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination;** [listen to the recording](#).
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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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