



# Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## COVID-19 Update and Resources 12/05 - 12/18

### PA & Federal Updates

- PA continues to see a big spike in positive cases. There were 140,055 new cases since our last update on 12/04, bringing the total case count to 538,655 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 PA counties. Hospitalizations remain double the peak in the spring. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#). Statewide percent positivity for the week of December 4 – December 10 stood at 16.2%.
- As announced by the Department of Health earlier this week, PA is receiving 97,500 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine which will be distributed to 83 hospitals (determined by their ability to maintain the super cold chain) in 66 counties. Philadelphia County is receiving its own allotment of 13,650 doses, for a total of 111,150 doses for health care workers identified in the [state's vaccine distribution plan](#).
- PA AAP Leadership is in dialogue with the Department of Health and we will keep you posted on the vaccine rollout. For those in independent practice, check where you have your hospital privileges. Further vaccine distribution will be based upon how much vaccine can be obtained and how often. As supply increases we will learn and share more.
- Department Of Health Announced All 67 Counties In Pennsylvania Received Rapid Antigen Test Cards As Of Week 10 - [Read more](#).
- Beginning today, Friday, December 18, regional drive-thru and indoor walk-in testing clinics will be held in Cambria, Franklin, Mercer, Montour, and Luzerne counties. The counties with testing sites will change each week over the next 10 weeks so that 61 counties will eventually be covered by dedicated pop-up testing sites over a 12-week period. [Read more](#).
- FDA Statement on Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meeting - [Read more](#).
- From the CDC: COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities - Updated information about underlying health and social inequities that put many racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick, having more severe illness, and dying from COVID-19. [Read more](#).
- The CDC notes accumulating evidence that supports ending isolation and precautions for persons with COVID-19 using a symptom-based strategy. Specifically, researchers have reported that people with mild to moderate COVID-19 remain infectious no longer than 10 days after their symptoms began, and those with more severe illness or those who are severely immunocompromised remain infectious no longer than 20 days after their

symptoms began. Therefore, CDC has updated the recommendations for discontinuing home isolation. [Read more.](#)

- CDC is asking people who receive COVID-19 vaccines to self-register into a surveillance system called v-safe. This will be in addition to the other vaccine safety systems which include VAERS and CISA. The [v-safe toolkit website](#) has information and handouts.

## Updates from AAP and Other Guidance

Visit the COVID-19 [web page on AAP.org](#) to find updated resources such as clinical guidance, practice management resources, including tele-health and coding, educational resources for clinicians and families, data reports, a discussion board, and details on AAP advocacy efforts. For questions or comments related to the pandemic, email [COVID-19@aap.org](mailto:COVID-19@aap.org).

As of December 10, over 1.6 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 12.2% of all cases in states reporting cases by age.

The number of new child COVID-19 cases reported this week was nearly 180,000, the highest weekly increase since the pandemic began. As documented in prior weekly reports, it appears that severe illness due to COVID-19 is rare among children. However, there is an urgent need to collect more data on longer-term impacts of the pandemic on children, including ways the virus may harm the long-term physical health of infected children, as well as its emotional and mental health effects.

[Learn more.](#)

### AAP Updated Info:

- [Covid-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)
- [ACOG Statements on Vaccinating Pregnant and Lactating Patients against COVID-19](#)
- [Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Statement on the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines for Lactating Women and their Breastfeeding Infants](#)

**Interactive Town Hall Series on COVID-19-** The AAP now 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.

- **Session #7:** December 3rd, 2020, Covid-19 Vaccine - [Listen to the recording.](#)
- **Session #8:** December 17, 2020, COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A - [Listen to the recording.](#)

## Webinars



**Let's Talk will resume in the new year.**

**In case you missed it:**

**"Let's Talk: Prioritizing Health Equity in Clinical Practice" | Katie Mcpeak, MD, FAAP, and Stacey Kallem, MD, FAAP, and Chinonyerem R Madu, MPH**  
[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](#)

**"Let's Talk: "Influenza: Disease, Immunization, and Working to Protect Families"**

**Richard Moriarty, MD, FAAP**

[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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