COVID-19 Updates

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Pa. has 1,208 new cases, bringing statewide total to 46,971 (2,878) are in health care workers in all 67 Pa. counties. Learn more. You can view a breakdown of cases here.


Gov. Wolf announced that nearly $324 million in funding has been awarded to 31 Pa. hospitals through the Hospital Emergency Loan Program (HELP) to provide short-term financial relief. Learn more

Health care providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis on or after Feb. 4, 2020, can electronically request claims reimbursement. Learn more

Gov. Wolf announced cross-agency telehealth guidance for the COVID-19 disaster declaration. View guidance

Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services


New and Expanded Flexibilities for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) MLN Matters Article. Read more

PA DOH COVID-19 Update

Interim Guidelines for Collecting Clinical Specimens for COVID-19 Testing April 30, 2020

The following specimens are acceptable to submit for COVID-19 testing:

- A nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen,
- An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen, or
- A nasal mid-turbinate (NMT) swab, or
- An anterior nares specimen(NS), or
- Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW).
Consultation with the health department is required before testing at DOH. Please call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department. Commercial and in-house laboratory tests do not require consultation with the health department. Please follow those laboratory specimen collection instructions. Positive test results should be reported through the Pennsylvania electronic reporting system, PA-NEDSS.

Specimens for point-of-care tests should not be placed in media or saline prior to analysis.

View Full PA DOH Update

AAP News

AAP awarded $6 million to expand telehealth during COVID-19 pandemic
April 30, 2020
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded the AAP $6 million to increase children's access to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more

Pandemic highlights health care inequities among at-risk pediatric populations
April 28, 2020
The pandemic's impact on at-risk groups has drawn concern from pediatricians as more data point to the need for health care providers to address barriers to healthy outcomes for vulnerable populations. Read more

AAP asks HHS for relief funds to help pediatricians stay open
April 17, 2020
In a letter, AAP President Sara H. Goza, MD, FAAP, asked HHS for “immediate, direct financial relief payments” for pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists “to keep practices open, pay staff, and procure needed supplies.” Read more

COVID-19 News

Trump Administration Reportedly Not Extending COVID-19 Assistance To Medicaid Providers
April 30, 2020
Read more from LA Times
FURTHER READING
'Dire Situation' For Frontline Physicians Prompts Letter To Administration For Financial Relief

Well-Child Visits Have Reportedly Declined During Pandemic
April 29, 2020
Read more from NPR
FURTHER READING
Pediatricians Hope COVID-19 Helps Overcome Opposition To Vaccines Telehealth Taking Center Stage In Many Practices Amid COVID-19 Crisis

COVID-19 Pandemic Exposes Racial Disparities In US
April 29, 2020
Read more from New York Times
FURTHER READING
Pandemic Highlights Health Care Inequities Among At-Risk Pediatric Populations

From the National AAP

Pediatrics Collection on COVID-19 Offers Pediatricians the Latest Research
The rapid spread of COVID-19 has created many questions among families and caregivers, and information continues to evolve. The editorial team at Pediatrics
have compiled articles from American Academy of Pediatrics publications into a curated collection of articles on COVID-19. This online collection will be updated frequently to reflect new articles published on this topic. Pediatrics articles and resources include:

- **Mitigating the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response on At Risk Children**
- **Vulnerable Youth and the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **COVID-19 Pediatric Research Highlights**

**New Clinical Guidance:** Breastfeeding Guidance Post Hospital Discharge for Mothers or Infants with Suspected or Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection

**HealthyChildren**
- **Ask the Pediatrician:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, would it be safer to plan a homebirth rather than deliver my baby at a hospital?
- **Ask the Pediatrician:** Is it OK to call the pediatrician during the COVID-19 pandemic even if I’m not sure my child is sick?
- **Preventing Tobacco Exposure During Stay-at-Home Orders**

**Latest Free Webinars From AAP**
Addressing Family Mental Health Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Offering tips for pediatricians for conversations to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on family mental health. (April 27, 2020)
[View Recording](#)

Child Abuse in the COVID-19 Era: Strategies for identifying children at risk for or currently experiencing abuse and neglect during the pandemic and ways to support families to keep children safe. (April 27, 2020).
[View Recording](#)

## #PedsPutKids1st Story Campaign

"It’s definitely the closest thing that I’ve felt to being in a battle or on the front line of something. It’s very intense."

Katherine O’Connor, M.D., FAAP
New York, N.Y.

The AAP is collecting stories of member pediatricians during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that we can lift up and thank the heroes among us, advocate for the needs of on-the-ground physicians and share the experiences of other pediatricians with our community of members. The AAP will share select stories in blogs, social media and other communications, with permission. To share your story, visit [www.aap.org/COVIDstory](http://www.aap.org/COVIDstory).

[Read other stories here.](#)
Additional resources:
- An AAP letter outlining its priorities to Congress for children, families and pediatricians in future COVID-19 response legislation
- An AAP led a letter with other medical organizations with their asks for COVID-19 relief for immigrant children and families
- A Facebook live video with Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) and Deanna Behrens, MD, FAAP, sharing advice for families

**Advocacy Call-to-Action**

Pediatricians Left Out of Last Week’s HHS Provider Relief Fund Announcement

**What can you do?**

Contact your Member of Congress today and urge them to weigh in with HHS and the White House

- Go to [federaladvocacy.aap.org](http://federaladvocacy.aap.org)
- Click on “Provide Needed Financial Support for Pediatricians Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis” under Key Issues

**Webinars**

**New Weekly Pediatric Community Forum**

*Due to the growing need for up-to-date information and communication, PA AAP is now offering a modified version of our “Let’s Talk” webinar series to our members. This series will take place weekly and serve as a forum for community pediatric providers. We want to provide an opportunity to hear what others are experiencing and to share ideas for managing the impact of COVID-19.*

*Webinars will take place every Wednesday from 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET.*

**UPCOMING**

“Place Matters: The Story of the COVID-19 Epidemic”

Date of Activity: May 6, 2020
Agenda: 8:00 - 9:00 PM EDT with Presentations and Q & A

**Presenters:**

David Rubin, MD, MSCE- Attending Physician, Co-Director, PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Session Learning Objectives:
As a result of participation in this activity, participants will be able to:
- Describe the impact of social distancing, population density, and temperature on the transmission of SARS-CoV-2
- Identify potential projections for COVID-19 forecasting
Identify local, state and federal strategies for re-opening communities

REGISTER HERE

RECORDED 4/29/20
"Coping with COVID and Autism"

Presenters:
Wendy Ross, MD, FAAP: Jefferson Health, Center for Autism & Neurodiversity

Session Learning Objectives:
As a result of participation in this activity, participants will be able to:
• Identify areas of stress during the COVID period for those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
• Articulate strategies to help reduce stress in those affected by ASD
• Delineate possibilities for at-home opportunities for growth during the COVID period

View Recording

RECORDED 4/22/20
"Supporting Mental Health During COVID19"
Justin Schreiber, DO, MPH, FAAP; Paula Powe, MD
View Recording

RECORDED 4/15/2020
"Breastfeeding and Lactation Support During COVID"
Meg Kawan, MD, MPH, IBCLC, FAAP
View Recording

RECORDED 4/8/2020
"Infection Control in the Time of COVID"
Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP
View Recording

RECORDED 3/25/20
"Implementing Telemedicine in Pediatric Practice"
Kristin Ray, MD, FAAP; Bonnie Offit, MD, FAAP; Chip Hart
Recording
Telemedicine Q&A Handout

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)