



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COVID-19 Update and Resources 9/11- 9/17

We're hearing from members that practices across the Commonwealth are dealing with definitive spikes in respiratory-related illnesses; with the recent return to school and the strong resistance in many counties/lack of compliance to Secretary Beam's mask mandate, we predict this trend will persist. PA AAP leaders are meeting with the Acting Secretary's office weekly to assess the strategy around school testing, contact-tracing, and vaccination efforts.

If you're interested in getting further involved on this subject, let us know through an email to Casey O'Neill, Advocacy & Communications Coordinator, at coneill@paaap.org. Also contact Casey if you have specific questions for DOH leadership or anything you'd like to share with them.

Follow the PA AAP on social media to receive real-time updates on developments in school health.



PA & Federal Updates

- There were 31,934 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 9/10, bringing the total case count to 1,370,247 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week of Sept. 3 - 9 rose to 9.1% from 8.2% for Aug. 27 - Sept. 2. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. [here](#).
- Find [here](#) a joint statement from the American Board of Family Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine, and American Board of Pediatrics on the dissemination of misinformation by board-certified physicians. As misinformation foregrounds much of the rhetoric around COVID-19, medical boards are taking action against physicians who promulgate the spread. Read more [here](#).
- As cases continue to surge, it's becoming increasingly evident; those suffering from severe disease are the unvaccinated. Read more [here](#).
- COVID ICUs are seeing an uptick of critically ill pregnant patients. Read more about the concerning trend [here](#).
- The PA DOH addresses a return to work for healthcare professionals amid the ongoing public health crisis. For more, click [here](#) and [here](#).
- From the AAP and additional contributors, be sure to view [this resource](#) where

pediatricians answer frequently-asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

- The fate of booster shots' availability hangs on an FDA advisory panel, set to review the extent to which the vaccines' protection wanes over time. Read more [here](#).
- Listen [here](#) as Dr. Paul Offit, MD, FAAP and Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson discuss the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The PA DOH maintains the power to close schools due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Learn more [here](#).
- Pfizer will soon seek authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine for children five years and older, suggesting that an approval may be near. Learn more [here](#).
- PA Physicians for School Safety, a PA AAP ally in our work around school health, has drafted a letter with recommendations to state leadership on addressing the rise in COVID-19 cases in schools. This letter, found [here](#), is a sign-on opportunity.

Updates from AAP and 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.
- As of September 9, more than 5.3 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 15.5% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 243,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 28.9% of reported weekly cases. [Read the latest report](#). Also, find the AAP's latest report on [Children and COVID-19 Vaccination Trends](#).
- Recently Updated from AAP:
 - [COVID-19 Testing Guidance](#)
 - [Obesity Management and Treatment During COVID-19](#)
- Coming Soon:
 - **COVID-19 Treatment**
 - **Preparing for Surges**
- Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
 - [Should Your Child Be Tested for COVID-19?](#)

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

Register today to join the next Let's Talk webinar!

Scheduled for **Wednesday, September 29 at 8:00pm**, the webinar will be a presentation from Dr. Allyson Larkin on the **updated asthma guidelines**.

REGISTER HERE

Coming up:

- On **Monday, September 20 at 1:00pm ET**, join the Immunization Action Coalition for "Translating COVID-19 Strategies to Improve Influenza Seasonal Flu Vaccination Efforts"; register [here](#).
 - On **Tuesday, September 28 at 6:00pm ET**, join leaders at Nemours to discuss "What Parents Need to Know about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children"; register [here](#).
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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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