

# Philadelphia Weekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

## Philadelphia Department of Public Health

### The Latest News

- **Job opening: Health Equity Advisor**
  - The Public Health Preparedness Program (PHP) is looking for a Health Equity Advisor.
  - The Health Equity Advisor will:
    - Ensure PHP interventions maintain a focus on equitable access to emergency information and services in priority areas and with priority populations.
    - Advise the Program on diversity, equity and inclusion both as it relates to structural contexts impacting disparity and local dynamics impacting community preparedness and resilience.
    - Develop mechanisms for internal and external evaluation of equity initiatives within the Program and serve on program and division level health justice and racial equity workgroups.
  - Find the full job description at: <https://bit.ly/PHPEquityAdvisor>
  - **Applications due by September 23, 2022.**
- **CDC Recommends the First Updated, Bivalent COVID-19 Booster**
  - The CDC and the FDA recommends the use for the updated COVID-19 boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older and from Moderna for people 18 years and older.
  - More information in the FAQ below and at <https://bit.ly/CDCBivalent>
- **Monkeypox Vaccine Interest Form: <https://bit.ly/MPXVaccineInterest>**
  - When you fill out the Monkeypox Vaccine Interest Form online, PDPH will determine if you are eligible to receive the vaccine.
    - Now, you can fill out this form OR call the Health Department at 215-685-5488, you do not have to do both.
  - People who are eligible will be contacted by email or phone, to set up an appointment.
    - Appointments will be set to ensure that vaccine is given out in the most equitable manner.
    - If you don't immediately get an appointment, your name will be added to a list to be invited in the future when more vaccine appointments are available, or you become eligible.
  - The [MPX Vaccine Interest Form](#) is available in English and Spanish.
  - People who do not want to, or cannot, complete it online, or people who need assistance in other languages can call 215-685-5488 and a Health Department call taker will complete it with you.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Polio in the US

- **Why are Public Health officials talking about polio?**
  - The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reported that it has found polio virus in their wastewater.
  - They checked their wastewater 3 weeks after the first US acquired case of paralytic polio in decades was diagnosed in a New York State resident.
- **Is there polio in Philadelphia?**
  - No cases have been identified in Philadelphia.
- **Should I be concerned about polio being found in NYC's wastewater?**
  - No, finding polio in wastewater after a case identified is not surprising.
  - One case of paralytic polio potentially indicates that there may be hundreds of other cases, most of whom experience only mild illness.

- Polio paralyzes about 1 of every 200 people who contract the virus. There is no treatment other than supportive care; once someone catches polio, it is too late for us to prevent the dire complications of the virus. So the case a few weeks ago was a sign that there had likely been spread of the virus already in New York and the finding of polio virus in wastewater confirms that that is the case.
- **What is polio?**
  - Most Americans have forgotten what polio looks like. In some countries, it is still common to see adults with the after-effects of polio: people with one or both legs far smaller and thinner than normal size with flaccid paralysis, meaning that the limb may be floppy and weak. Some people who have had polio limp and others are unable to bear weight on one or both legs at all.
- **Why is polio so rare in the U.S?**
  - Polio had been considered eradicated in the United States until very recently.
- **What does this all mean for Philadelphia?**
  - The chances of a widespread infection of polio is low.
  - This is because the polio vaccination rate in Philadelphia for children under 5 is 90% for 4 doses of vaccine.
    - This is higher than the rate in New York City (86.2% for 3 doses).
  - Virtually every neighborhood in the city exceeds the 80% rate of polio vaccination that we believe is necessary for herd immunity.
- **Are there any children in Philadelphia who are not vaccinated?**
  - In a few neighborhoods in South Philadelphia, fewer than 60% of children have been vaccinated against polio.
  - Parents throughout Philadelphia, but especially in these communities, should check with their children's pediatrician to make sure they're protected against polio.
- **What if you're not sure if your child has been vaccinated against polio?**
  - Any child who has not been fully immunized against polio should be vaccinated as soon as possible.
  - The City Health Centers offer walk in vaccinations that are free through the Vaccines for Children program.
- **Is the polio vaccine effective?**
  - Polio vaccine is more than 99% effective and has been approved since 1955.
  - Billions of doses have been safely administered.
- **More information is available at:** [https://bit.ly/PHL\\_IPV](https://bit.ly/PHL_IPV)

#### COVID-19: Resources and Services

- **Free COVID Testing Kits Available for Distribution by CBOs**
  - PDPH has procured a supply of at-home COVID-19 test kits and will be offering these tests to community-based organizations (CBOs) serving clients and patrons in areas of high COVID-19 risk.
  - Request your free test kits here: <https://bit.ly/CBOtestDistro>
- **Where to find COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses:**
  - Call 3-1-1 or visit [phila.gov/vaccine](https://phila.gov/vaccine) or [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to find a vaccine clinic near you.
    - For interpretation, call 3-1-1, press #5 and say your language.
    - Visit <https://bit.ly/KnowB4Ugo> for updates on transportation, access and functional needs resources, and up-to-date access descriptions of City-run clinics.
  - Options for COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured residents include:

- Free vaccine at City health centers and pop-up clinics, for insured and uninsured residents. No ID is required at these locations.
- Other sites, like pharmacies, may bill your insurance company or charge you a direct fee. Call these sites before you go to find out about their policies.
- More information available at: [www.phila.gov/vaccine](http://www.phila.gov/vaccine) and [bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH](https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH)
- **What to do if you lost your vaccination card?**
  - Ask your healthcare provider first, if they cannot help, call 215-685-5488 or email [covid@phila.gov](mailto:covid@phila.gov) to request a copy of your vaccine record.
  - The CDC does not provide copies of COVID-19 vaccination card.
- **Stock up on FREE N95 masks**
  - Visit <https://bit.ly/FreeN95s> for free masks from the Strategic National Stockpile
- **Stock up on home tests**
  - How to get FREE home tests even if you do not have insurance:
    - Each household can place **3 orders** of 4 free tests, for 12 tests total.
    - Order at: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
  - How to get home tests paid for if you do have insurance:
    - Health insurance companies are required to reimburse 8 at-home tests per month for each person enrolled in the plan and will reimburse up to \$12 per individual test.
    - Submit receipts for tests that you've purchased to your health plan, along with any other necessary documentation required by the health plan.
    - Detailed information here: <https://go.cms.gov/3Lqo0Yk>

### Monkeypox Resources and Services

- People who are concerned that they've been exposed, or believe they are at high risk of being exposed to monkeypox, should call the PDPH Call Center at 215-685-5488 to see if they are eligible to be vaccinated.
- Recording of the PDPH Monkeypox information available at: <https://bit.ly/MPXinfoSept7>.
  - Info session was held on Wednesday, September 7 and covered the following topics:
    - Overview of Monkeypox, Signs and Symptoms, What to do if you're sick, Treatment, Harm Reduction, Vaccine and Resources.
- Find the latest information on cases and vaccine at: <https://bit.ly/MPXDashboard>
  - Updated every Monday.
- Find the latest guidance about monkeypox at: <https://bit.ly/PHLMonkeypoxInfo>
- Find the latest flyers and printable information at: <https://bit.ly/PHPGuidance>
- Find information on precautions to take while you wait for your Monkeypox vaccine at: <https://bit.ly/MPXvaxWait>
- If you would like to receive the weekly Monkeypox newsletter update, email: [publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov](mailto:publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov)

### Public Health Preparedness: Resources and Services

- PDPH Launches the Primary Care Finder: [www.phila.gov/primary-care](http://www.phila.gov/primary-care)
  - Find free or low-cost medical care in Philadelphia
  - Search by location, type primary care, specialty care or testing services.
  - The goal of this tool is to increase access to free or low-cost primary care services for Philadelphians, especially people who are uninsured or underinsured.

- **Text-to-911 now fully operational in Philadelphia**

- Text-to-911 is a service that allows the public to send a text message to 911.
- Individuals who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and those who face communication barriers may find this service a more accessible means of interface with 911.
- More information available at: <https://bit.ly/PATextTo911>

**More Information**

- **Latest information from PDPH:**

- [phila.gov/COVID](https://phila.gov/COVID), [facebook.com/phillyhealth](https://facebook.com/phillyhealth) and [twitter@PHLPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/PHLPublicHealth)

- **PDPH Call Center:**

- Call 215-685-5488, Press 3 for interpretation in your language, press 2 for Spanish. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.

- **Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline**

- Call 800-722-7112, press #9 for interpretation.
- Open 24/7!
- Talk to a medical professional about COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, vaccine, tests, Etc.
- Get help making decisions about how to keep you, your loved ones and contacts safe from COVID-19.

**How to Stay Connected**

- **Join the Community Response Partner Network**

- This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](#), part of the PDPH Public Health Preparedness Program.
- Sign up at <https://bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse> to get essential public health information, then pass it on to your family, friends, and community.

- **Questions or suggestions?**

- Email us at [publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov](mailto:publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov)
- Leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

Be safe,

Philadelphia Department of Public Health