# Philadelphia Weekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

## Philadelphia Department of Public Health

**The Latest Events**

- **Public Disability Health Forum—October 31, 2022 at 10:00am via Zoom**
  - PDPH, in partnership with the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities, will host a public Disability Health Forum to inform Philadelphia's disability community on areas of concern in public health emergency preparedness and response, share resources/insights, and support dialogue between community members and public health administrators.
  - ASL will be provided.
  - Please contact Liam Dougherty at liam.dougherty@phila.gov for any additional accommodations by October 21, 2022.
  - To register visit: **https://bit.ly/Oct11Forum**
  - This event has been rescheduled from October 11, 2022.

**The Latest News**

- **Updated, bivalent booster available for everyone 5 and older**
  - The CDC and FDA authorized the use of the updated bivalent booster for children ages 5-11.
    - This booster is now recommended for everyone ages 5 and older after they've completed their COVID-19 vaccine series.
  - Updated COVID-19 vaccines add protection from Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 to current vaccine.
    - This will help people build back protection that has gotten weaker over time from their previous vaccine and targets the recent Omicron variants that are more contagious and more easily passed from person to person.
  - Now is the perfect time to get your updated COVID-19 booster with your flu vaccine to be protected from the respiratory illnesses that are most common in the fall season.
  - Information on the new authorization is available at https://bit.ly/5plusUpdatedVax.
  - Information on how to get a booster is available at https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxPHL.
- **The federal government has renewed the Public Health Emergency declaration until January 2023.**
  - A public health emergency (PHE) allows for:
    - More healthcare providers to provide telemedicine. This makes it easier for people to access healthcare services.
    - Increased funding and services for priority groups.
    - The ability of manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies to release tests, treatments, and vaccines under emergency use authorization.
  - More information is available at https://bit.ly/0123PHemergency.
- **Special Initiatives Application Extended: Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma Philadelphia (ReCAST)**
  - The mission of Philadelphia ReCAST is to promote resilience and equity, improve behavioral health, and reduce trauma through a sustained community change process.
  - Application deadline extended to January 15, 2023, or until all available funding has been allocated. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
  - More information is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PhilaReCAST.

**COVID-19: Resources and Services**

- Where to find COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses:
  - Call 3-1-1 or visit **phila.gov/vaccine** or **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** and **bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH**
- Free COVID Testing Kits available for distribution by CBOs
  - PDPH has procured a supply of at-home COVID-9 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**
- Free at-home COVID-19 tests for blind/low-vision people
  - If you are blind or have low vision, you can order the more accessible tests online at https://special.usps.com/testkits/accessible or by calling 1-800-232-0233.
  - These tests will be available for order until supplies run out.
  - For more information, visit: **https://bit.ly/COVIDKitAccess.**
- 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 to request a copy of your vaccine record.
  - The CDC does not provide copies of COVID-19 vaccination cards.
- Stock up on FREE N95 masks
  - Visit **https://bit.ly/FreeN95s** for free masks from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Stock up on home tests
  - 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.
  - For more information, visit: **https://go.cms.gov/3Lqo0Yk.**
    - Includes information on how to get tests if you don't have insurance or if you cannot afford to pay for your test up front.

**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.
- A recording of the PDPH Monkeypox Information Session is available at https://bit.ly/MPXinfoSept7.
  - This 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.
  - This is 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.

**Public Health Preparedness: Resources and Services**
- PDPH Launches the Primary Care Finder: www.phila.gov/primary-care
    - Find free or low-cost medical care in Philadelphia.
    - Search by location and 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 is available at: https://bit.ly/PATextTo911
- Spread the word about the Violence Prevention Hotline
    - A free and confidential hotline to connect people with over 100,000 important services and resources, such as conflict intervention, peer counseling, workforce programs, and behavioral health support.
    - Call 211 and press 3 to reach a Resource Navigator OR text your zip code to 989-211.
    - This hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and interpretation is available in 150+ languages.
    - More information is available at https://bit.ly/Philly211.

**More Information**
- PDPH COVID-19 website and social media
    - Information on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines, and testing resources is available at phila.gov/COVID-19 as well as on Facebook and Twitter.
- PDPH Seasonal Flu website
    - Information on the seasonal flu and how to get vaccinated is available at https://bit.ly/FluPHL.
- PDPH Monkeypox website
    - Information about the latest updates, vaccine, testing, and the data dashboard is available at https://www.phila.gov/monkeypox.
- PDPH Call Center
    - Call 215-685-5488. Press 3 for interpretation in your language, press 2 for Spanish. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.

**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**
  - Leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

**Be safe,**
**Philadelphia Department of Public Health**