

# Philadelphia Weekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

## Philadelphia Department of Public Health

### The Latest Events

- **Faith Based Community Feedback Forum—Wednesday, November 16, 10:00—11:00AM**
  - The COVID-19 Pandemic: Past, Present, Future?
    - Hosted by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the office of Faith Based and Interfaith Affairs.
    - Live Q and A with department leaders to answer questions and hear concerns.
  - Register at: <https://bit.ly/1116PDPHFBO>
  - For additional questions and accommodations, please email [Robert.Bell@phila.gov](mailto:Robert.Bell@phila.gov)

### The Latest News

- **PDPH launches new COVID-19 data dashboard**
  - The new data dashboard still includes a breakdown of vaccine by gender, race/ethnicity and age, but also allows you to see all data by either monovalent or bivalent dose.
  - The new dashboard is available at: <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxDashboard>
- **Help spread the word about Paxlovid to protect older adults from the worst of COVID-19**
  - Older adults are some of the most vulnerable to getting severely sick with COVID-19 if they become infected.
  - Paxlovid is a medication that greatly reduces the worst COVID-19 effects for older adults, but not enough older adults know about it.
    - Help spread the word and encourage the older adults in your life to ask their healthcare provider if Paxlovid is an option for them.
  - Find out more in the FAQ below and here: <https://bit.ly/PaxlovidPHL>
- **Updated, bivalent booster available for everyone 5 and older**
  - As the weather gets colder and more people are socializing inside, it is very important to make sure everyone eligible, including children, gets the latest COVID-19 booster.
    - This will help people build back protection that has gotten weaker over time from their previous vaccines.
    - This booster is updated to include protection from the current versions of the COVID-19 virus that are currently circulating.
      - The current versions of the virus are more easily passed from person to person.
  - Information on the new authorization is available at <https://bit.ly/5plusUpdatedVax>.
- **Job Opening: Recovery Specialist in Public Health Preparedness Program**
  - The Public Health Preparedness program helps communities prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and write this weekly newsletter.
  - The Recovery Specialist will assist the Recovery Planner to analyze responses to public health emergencies, identify areas for improvement, and develop and implement policies and procedures to support recovery from public health emergencies.
    - This position will be working with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that all perspectives are represented.
  - The position requires a Bachelor's degree or better and would be contracted by PHMC.

- Find the full job description at: <https://bit.ly/RecoverySpecialistPHP>
- Feel free to spread the word to anyone you think would be qualified and interested.
- **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](http://phila.gov/vaccine) or [vaccines.gov](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.
- 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](mailto:publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov).

**Frequently Asked Questions on Paxlovid**

- **What is Paxlovid?**
  - Paxlovid is an antiviral medication that can be used to treat COVID-19.
- **Is Paxlovid effective?**
  - Yes, for people over the age of 65, Paxlovid reduced hospitalization by 70% and death by 80% during the recent Omicron wave.
  - For older adults getting vaccinated and boosted, Paxlovid is proven to help them get better faster and keep them out of the hospital if they do get sick with COVID-19.
- **How does Paxlovid work?**
  - Paxlovid needs to be taken within 5 days of being infected and before symptoms become severe.
  - This is why it is important to plan ahead and talk with your doctor now to determine if you are able to take Paxlovid, well before you may get sick with COVID-19.
- **Why is it important that more older adults learn about Paxlovid?**
  - The risks from COVID-19 for older adults is high, 75% of all deaths from COVID-19 are in the 65 and older age group.
    - The risk goes down drastically after at least two doses of vaccine, but the oldest—those 80 and older—are still in danger of severe disease and death.
  - For older adults getting vaccinated and boosted, Paxlovid is proven to help them get better faster and keep them out of the hospital.
- **I am over the age of 65. What do I need to know about Paxlovid?**
  - There are some medications that shouldn't be mixed with Paxlovid.
  - A healthcare provider can give you all the information you need to know if Paxlovid is an option for you.
- **I don't have a healthcare provider right now, but I want to know if I can take Paxlovid. What should I do?**
  - Visit: <https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat> to find a location with a healthcare provider on staff who can discuss your medical history and a Paxlovid prescription.
- **I have heard the Paxlovid can cause rebound. What is that?**
  - Rebound is when symptoms come back after treatment is finished or after the individual has tested negative.
  - Research shows rebound can happen to people whether people take Paxlovid or not.
    - A return of symptoms may just be a natural part of shaking off the infection.
- **Why should I get vaccinated and boosted if I can just take Paxlovid?**
  - Not everyone is able to take Paxlovid.
  - Older adults are most vulnerable to getting severely sick & need all the help they can get to be protected.

- The best protection is vaccination, including your updated, bivalent booster and Paxlovid if you are eligible.

#### Public Health Preparedness: Resources and Services

- **Sign up for Ready Philadelphia**
  - To receive free text alerts to your phone on emergencies or severe weather, text “ReadyPhila” to 888-7777.
  - Be the first to know, then spread the word to family and neighbors.
- **Text-to-911 in Philadelphia:** <https://bit.ly/PATextTo911>
  - 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

- **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](https://phila.gov/COVID-19) as well as on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- **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