

Philadelphia Weekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Events

- **Updated Bivalent Booster recommended for everyone 6 months and up**
 - The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) allowing children 6 months of age and older to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Getting children vaccinated will help make sure fewer kids get sick from COVID-19 and will slow the spread of the virus. This can help protect everyone.
 - More information in the FAQ below and available at: <https://bit.ly/Bivalent6moPlusCDC>
- **Measles outbreak in Columbus, Ohio**
 - On October 22, 2022 a measles outbreak was declared in Columbus, Ohio.
 - The outbreak started in a childcare facility and has spread to multiple public locations.
 - There are currently 77 cases, as of December 19, 2022.
 - All are children aged 0-17.
 - Only 4 are partially vaccinated and the rest are not vaccinated.
 - Thirty-eight percent of cases have required hospitalization.
 - There have been no deaths.
 - Most people are not at risk for contracting measles.
 - Full vaccination with two doses of the measles vaccine is 97% effective at preventing measles.
 - Anyone born prior to 1957 is presumed to be immune.
 - More information available at: <https://bit.ly/MeaslesHAN>
- **Get protected before the holidays!**
 - Get your updated, bivalent COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine ASAP.
 - This will protect you from getting sick, protect you from passing the flu or COVID-19 to others and will protect the people you are celebrating with.
 - For more details on how to protect loved ones at gatherings over the holidays, check out [this flyer](#).
- **Free COVID-19 Test Kits for your next event**
 - PDPH strongly recommends that individuals seek testing for COVID-19 before and after attending large gatherings and events to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - Free tests are available and the response time should be pretty quick.
 - Fill out this survey to get started: <https://bit.ly/SpecialEventsCOVIDTests>
- **Cases of flu increasing**
 - The CDC's latest FluView report states:
 - Early increases in seasonal influenza activity continue nationwide.
 - Read the full report here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>
 - Get your questions about the flu answered in the FAQ below.
- **Free food sites across Philadelphia**
 - Philadelphia meal sites allow residents to pick up free food in their neighborhoods.
 - Call 311 or visit <http://phila.gov/food> to find a site near you.
 - More information available at: <https://bit.ly/FreeFoodPHL>
- **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>.

FAQ on the Updated Bivalent Booster for Children and Infants as young as 6 months

- **Where can my child get a vaccine?**
 - At your pediatrician's office
 - Many locations that provide adult COVID-19 vaccine can vaccinate young children, but please contact the location ahead of time to ensure that they have pediatric COVID-19 vaccines available.
- **Why should my child get a COVID-19 booster?**
 - People of all ages can get sick from the COVID-19 virus.
 - Although older people seem to have worse symptoms, children still can get very sick, have long-lasting symptoms and can spread the virus to other people.
- **Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?**
 - Yes!
 - The pediatric COVID-19 vaccines were tested in thousands of children of different ages, races, ethnicities, and those with certain medical conditions. No adverse effects were found.
- **What if my child already had COVID-19?**
 - They should still get the vaccine.
 - Getting a COVID-19 vaccine gives your immune (defense) system extra training to fight the COVID-19 virus and decreases the spread of the virus.
- **Where can I get more information?**
 - Visit www.vaccines.gov or contact the health department:
 - Email: PublicHealthInfo@phila.gov
 - Phone: 215-685-5488

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>
- **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.

Mpox: Resources and Services

- People who are concerned that they've been exposed, or believe they are at high risk of being exposed to mpox, 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>.
- If you would like to receive the monthly mpox newsletter update, email publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov.

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: phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and twitter@PHLPublicHealth.

- **PDPH Seasonal Flu website**
 - Information on the seasonal flu and how to get vaccinated: <https://bit.ly/FluPHL>
- **PDPH Mpox website**
 - Information on the latest updates, information on vaccine and testing and the data dashboard: <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