

Philadelphia Biweekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest News

- The City's response to spill of a latex product in the Delaware River
 - **The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has declared Philadelphia's drinking water is safe to drink and use.**
 - PWD has determined that Philadelphia's drinking water will not be impacted by the spill in Bucks County.
 - Out of an abundance of caution, PWD will continue enhanced monitoring of the Delaware River and Baxter Drinking Water Treatment Plant for spill-related material. Information related to this incident will be made available on [PWD's website](#).
 - You can get the latest information about the response here: <https://bit.ly/3IH5ovN>.
 - Sign up for free alerts by texting READYPHILA to 888-777 or by visiting the ReadyPhiladelphia signup page at: <https://bit.ly/ReadyPhiladelphiaSignUp>
- Hepatitis A Increases among At-Risk Persons in Philadelphia
 - Hepatitis A is increasing in Philadelphia among persons who use drugs and those experiencing homelessness.
 - PDPH is recommending healthcare providers to take every opportunity to vaccinate at-risk persons and is encouraging eligible, at-risk residents get vaccinated.
 - Upcoming, free hepatitis A vaccine clinics are available at: <https://bit.ly/PHLhepAvax>
- Severe storms and flooding
 - Flooding presents many risks to people in Philadelphia, including health hazards and property damage.
 - Get more information in the FAQ below or visit <https://bit.ly/PWDFlood>
- Biden administration to end COVID-19 related National Emergency and Public Health Emergency Declarations
 - On Jan. 30, 2023, the Biden Administration stated it plans to wind down and then end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 pandemic by May 11, 2023.
 - This may impact Medicaid enrollment and resource access for uninsured and underinsured residents.
 - PDPH will maintain the most up-to-date information at: <https://bit.ly/PHEendPHL>
- The Overdose Prevention and Community Healing Fund
 - Awards up to \$100K for local non-profit orgs to spread awareness, reduce stigma and heal trauma in communities.
 - Learn more and apply at: bit.ly/preventionfund

The Latest Events

- PDPH – Division of COVID Containment Info sessions
 - Upcoming Info Sessions:
 - April 25, 11am – 12pm: The PDPH Resource Hub network and what services and resources are available to Philadelphians.
 - Register at: <https://bit.ly/CoCoSpringInfoSessions>
 - Interpretation available in American Sign Language (ASL), French, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.
- Overdose Prevention and Reversal Trainings
 - Offered by PDPH Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction (SUPHR)

- This training provides background information and data on opioid use, Philadelphia's drug supply, and overdoses in our city. There is also a detailed description of how to recognize and respond to an opioid-related overdose with naloxone, or Narcan.
- The training is offered every 2 weeks and is approximately 1.5 hours with an additional 15 minutes for questions.
- You can choose to have Narcan discreetly mailed to you after the training.
 - We aim to prioritize our Narcan supply for those with the least access to Narcan and those most likely to witness an overdose. If you have the resources to acquire Narcan on your own, please consider going to your local pharmacy to get it.
- This training is ongoing, sign up at: <https://bit.ly/NarcanTrainingPHL>

FAQs on Severe Storms and Flooding

- How could climate change affect storms and flooding in Philadelphia?
 - Climate change contributes to:
 - More precipitation: Heavier and more frequent storms can cause bodies of water to overflow more often.
 - Storm surge: Coastal storms can cause water to rise above normal levels
 - Sea level rise: Some areas of Philadelphia are at risk of sea level rise.
- What is the fastest way to be updated when a storm is coming to Philly?
 - Get free emergency or weather alerts from the City of Philadelphia:
 - Text READYPHILA to 888-777 for free text alerts
- I have heard I should prepare an emergency supply kit ahead of time; what should I include?
 - Prepare enough supplies to last you and the people you live with for 3 days.
 - Include the following items:
 - Medications
 - Always have at least a one-week supply of medications.
 - Complete a [Health Information Card](#) or write down the medications that you and your family members take.
 - Include the name of the medication, the dose, how often you take it, and why you take it.
 - Food and water
 - 1 gallon of water per person per day for drinking, cooking, and washing.
 - Supplies for babies and children
 - Pet supplies
 - Cell phone/charger
 - Flashlight and whistle
 - Cash
 - Copies of important documents
 - First-aid kit
 - Battery-operated radio/extra batteries
 - Find more information on preparedness kits at: www.ready.gov/kit
- What is a Health Information Card?
 - A Health Information Card includes your important medical history, doctors' office information, medications and equipment.
 - It will help emergency medical responders know how to help you in an emergency.

- Download and fill one out today: <https://bit.ly/PHPGuidance>
- What should I do during a flood?
 - Move to higher ground if it is safe to do so. Do not try to swim to safety.
 - Take your emergency bag and leave your current location if it is unsafe.
 - Avoid walking or driving through flooded areas; water can be much deeper than it looks. Remember: Turn Around, Don't Drown!
 - Just two feet of moving water can sweep an SUV off the road.
 - Get out and leave your car if it stalls in a flooded area.
 - Flood waters contain harmful germs, chemicals, and trash.
 - Wash your hands if you touch flood water.
- What should I do after a flood?
 - Wait for the "All Clear" by authorities before reentering flooded buildings.
 - Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank and let the building air out.
 - Contact PGW to report gas leaks and emergencies, 24 hours a day at 215-235-1212.
 - Turn off the electrical system.
 - If fallen power lines are visible, call PECO or a qualified electrician to fix the wires. PECO Emergency Hotline: 1-800-494-4000
 - Contact your insurance company to discuss property damage.
- What should I do if I lose power?
 - Discard food that has been in a non-running refrigerator for more than four hours.
 - Replace medications that require refrigeration.
- Should I be concerned about mold after a flood?
 - Mold can cause eye and skin irritation and allergic reactions.
 - If you have asthma, mold can trigger asthma attacks.
- What should I do about mold?
 - Prevention:
 - Control moisture to prevent mold.
 - Clean and dry wet surfaces within 24 hours and discard items that can't be dried.
 - Use fans, air conditioning and dehumidifiers to help with drying.
 - For safe clean up:
 - Wear rubber gloves, eye protection, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and a mask.
 - Open doors and windows.
 - Use a non-ammonia soap or detergent. NEVER mix bleach with ammonia.
 - If you can, hire a professional to clean moldy areas larger than 3 by 3 feet.
 - For more information about mold clean up visit www.epa.gov/mold.
- Where can I get more information?
 - Visit the CDCs page on flooding emergencies: https://bit.ly/foodwater_safety
 - Visit the Philadelphia Water Department page on flood emergencies: <https://bit.ly/PWDFlood>

More Information

- **PDPH Call Center**
 - Information on City public health guidance, services, resources, and more.

- Call 215-685-5488. Press 3 for interpretation in your language, press 2 for Spanish. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.
- **PDPH COVID-19 website and social media**
 - Information on the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declarations: <https://bit.ly/PHEendPHL>
 - Latest information from PDPH : phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and [twitter](https://twitter.com/phillyhealth)
- **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>

COVID-19: Resources and Services

- **Where to find COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses:**
 - Call 215-685-5488 or visit vaccines.gov to find a vaccine clinic near you.
 - More information on booster doses available at <https://bit.ly/UpdatedBoosterPHL>
 - 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**
 - Free COVID-19 test kits are available community-based organizations 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.

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.

- 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.

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