

# Philadelphia Biweekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

## Philadelphia Department of Public Health

### The Latest Events

- City-wide virtual heat workshop!
  - Wednesday, May 24th from 2:00—3:00pm
  - Simultaneous interpretation in ASL, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Haitian Creole
  - Register at: <http://www.bit.ly/PhillyHeat23>
  - Flyer attached, please share with your contacts!
- Disability Health Forum
  - Next forum date will be scheduled soon.
  - A recording of the latest disability health forum is available at: <https://bit.ly/DAFNhazardPlanning>
- 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>

### The Latest News

- Don't forget to recertify your Medicaid coverage!
  - During the Pandemic, Medicaid eligibility was expanded but with the public health emergency ending, that is all changing.
  - As of April 1, 2023, you must once again renew your Medicaid coverage the month before it expires, or you will lose your coverage.
    - You will not lose your Medicaid without a chance to complete a renewal or update your information.
  - More information in the FAQ below and available at: <https://bit.ly/MedicaidReCert>
- Stock up on home COVID-19 tests before May 11, 2023
  - Most health insurance companies will stop reimbursing at home COVID-19 tests on May 11, 2023, so stock up now!
    - Check with your health insurance provider or closest pharmacy.
  - COVID-19 is not going away, you still need to test for COVID-19 to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.
  - Find free tests and testing sites at: [https://bit.ly/Covid19\\_test](https://bit.ly/Covid19_test)
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- Extreme Heat Preparedness Materials now available!
  - Free, color-printed materials available in multiple languages
    - Summer Newsletter and Extreme Heat Brochure
    - Utility Assistance Brochure
    - Activity Books for kids and older adults
    - Much more
  - Share with neighbors and contacts at community events or meetings, and to anyone interested in staying safe when the weather gets extremely hot.
  - Materials can be mailed to you or picked up at our office at 1101 Market St.
  - To download or order, visit: <https://bit.ly/PHPMaterials>
- Free take-home HIV test kits available at Resource Hubs
  - Philadelphia residents, 17 years and older who have not received a test kit in the last 3 months are eligible.
  - Resource Hub locations and more information available at: <https://bit.ly/HIVhomeTest>
  - Get tested right away if:
    - You have never been tested.
    - You have sex with someone new.
    - You have sex without a condom.
    - You have sex and the condom breaks.
    - You have sex with someone who has tested positive for HIV or STIs.
    - You are pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant.
  - Get tested for HIV and sexually transmitted infections every 3 – 6 months depending on how many sexual partners you have each year.
  - More information on sexual health and wellness: <https://phillykeeponloving.com>
- Free Air Purifiers for Early Childhood Centers and Schools
  - COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses like flu and RSV are spread through the air, so air purifiers can help our children stay healthier in school, instead of being at home with an illness.
  - An air purifier with a HEPA filter draws the air in and forces it through different layers of filter before returning the air to the room.
    - These HEPA filters are rated to remove 99.9% of airborne particles.
    - They will be particularly helpful in areas where children need to remove their masks, like cafeterias and other spaces where they eat. They're also recommended for classrooms, playrooms/play areas, and gymnasiums.
  - Read more at: <https://bit.ly/AirPurifierPHL> or contact the Pediatric Partnerships Team at [covid.schools@phila.gov](mailto:covid.schools@phila.gov) with any additional questions.
- Funding Opportunity available until May 5, 2023
  - Yield Giving, with funding from MacKenzie Scott, has announced an open call for community-based organizations to apply for \$250 million in available support.
  - Through this effort, Yield Giving will make unrestricted \$1 million donations to 250 non-profit organizations whose purpose is to advance the voices and opportunities of individuals and families from underserved communities.

- According to the announcement, organizations best suited to apply have enabled communities to achieve improvement in their well-being.
  - This includes, for instance, organizations providing access to health care, stable and affordable housing, education and job training, support for sustained employment, asset ownership, civic engagement and other pathways.
  - Organizations may also be engaged in data collection and communication to amplify the voices of people and communities struggling against inequities.
- Organizations must have an annual operating budget of at least \$1 million and no more than \$5 million for at least two of the last four fiscal years to be eligible to apply.
- Interested organizations must register to apply before 4 p.m. U.S. Central Time on Friday, May 5, 2023. Learn more about this opportunity.
- Please direct any questions to: [yieldgivingopencall@submittable.com](mailto:yieldgivingopencall@submittable.com).
- More information available at: <https://bit.ly/Yield2023>

### Frequently Asked Questions on Medicaid Re-Enrollment

- **I heard Continuous Medicaid is ending! What is happening?**
  - Continuous Medicaid coverage ended on April 1.
    - Since March 2020, there have been special COVID rules for Medical Assistance (MA), also known as Medicaid.
      - Under the COVID rules, Medicaid stayed on continuously even if you did not renew it.
    - These special COVID rules ended on April 1, 2023. Now you have to renew to keep your Medicaid benefits.
  - Everyone will have to submit a renewal in order to remain on Medicaid.
    - No one will automatically lose benefits.
    - Everyone will have a chance to renew.
- **When will I have to re-new?**
  - Not everyone will have their renewal at the same time.
  - Terminations will start in April 2023 but will happen over a 12-month period, through April 2024. This is why this process is also called “Medicaid Unwinding.”
  - Most people will have their renewal during their regular renewal time, which should be during the month in which they first applied for Medicaid.
    - For example: If you had a renewal due in July 2022, your next renewal will be due in July 2023.
    - Ninety days before your renewal date, you will start receiving letters informing you that your renewal is due soon.
    - The month before your renewal is due, your paper renewal packet will be mailed to you. The renewal package will tell you when your renewal due date is.
- **How do I re-new/re-enroll in Medicaid?**
  - There are 5 ways you can re-enroll or check your status and renewal date:
    1. Update your contact information online with COMPASS at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or renew by phone at 866-550-4355. Translation services are available upon request.
    2. Open your mail and watch for renewal information from the Department of Human Services (DHS).
    3. Call or text Pennsylvania’s Health Action Network (PHAN) helpline at 877-570-3642.
    4. City Health Center patients can speak with a benefits counselor onsite.
    5. Contact the local Philadelphia DHS office at 215-560-7226 or the Pennsylvania DHS office at 877-395-8930.

- **How do I submit my renewal?**

- There are three ways to submit your renewal.
  1. Mail your renewal or drop it off at your local County Assistance Office (CAO). Make a copy and keep a receipt if you can.
  2. Complete your renewal online on COMPASS: [dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS](https://dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS). Screenshot or print and keep any conformation pages.
  3. Complete your renewal by phone: 1-866-550-4355

- **What should I do if I have questions?**

- Call or text Pennsylvania's Health Action Network (PHAN) helpline at 877-570-3642.
- For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/MedicaidReCert>

### COVID-19: Resources and Services

- **Where to find COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses:**

- Call 215-685-5488 or visit [vaccines.gov](https://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](http://www.phila.gov/vaccine) and [bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH](https://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](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**

- Most health insurance companies will stop reimbursing at home COVID-19 tests on May 11, 2023, so stock up now!
  - Check with your health insurance provider or closest pharmacy.
- Find free tests and testing sites at: [https://bit.ly/Covid19\\_test](https://bit.ly/Covid19_test)

### 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 Call Center**
  - 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](https://phila.gov/COVID), [facebook.com/phillyhealth](https://facebook.com/phillyhealth) and [twitter](https://twitter.com/phillyhealth)

**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