

# Philadelphia Biweekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

## Philadelphia Department of Public Health

### The Latest News

- **Early Childhood Education Centers can get FREE Air Purifiers:** <https://bit.ly/AirPurifierPHL>
- **Residents can get FREE KN95 masks at PDPH Resource Hubs:** <https://bit.ly/ResourceHubsPHL>
  - Bethany Baptist Church | 5747 Warrington Avenue, 19143 | Entrance on 58th St. | Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm
  - Mi Salud Wellness Center | 200 E Wyoming Avenue, 19120 | Entrance A St. | Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm | Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm
  - Mt Enon Baptist Church | 500 Snyder Avenue, 19148 | Entrance on Cantrell St. | Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm
  - Whitman Plaza | 330 W Oregon Avenue, 19148 | Between Gamestop and Dunkin Donuts | Monday - Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm
- **Air Quality Alert for Unhealthy Air**
  - Philadelphia is currently under an air quality alert.
  - This means that the air is unhealthy to breathe, and residents should be taking precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones.
    - Strongly consider cancelling outdoor events and gatherings.
    - Avoid going outdoors as much as possible.
    - Avoid strenuous activities outdoors, such as jogging or exercising.
    - If you have to go outdoors, wear a high-quality mask, like an N-95 or KN-95 mask.
      - Pick up free KN95s at PDPH Resource Hubs: <https://bit.ly/ResourceHubsPHL>
    - Avoid areas of high congestion and where air pollution may be high, like main streets or highways, areas with low air circulation.
    - Close all windows and doors to minimize air pollution indoors.
    - Recirculate the air in your home with fans to avoid bringing more air pollution into your home.
    - Pay attention to your body; if you are having trouble breathing, feeling nauseous, or dizzy, you should seek medical attention as soon as possible.
  - See the FAQ below for more information.
  - Find the latest recommendation on this blog post: <https://bit.ly/AirQualityAlertPHL>
  - Check the latest air quality conditions in Philly: <https://bit.ly/AirQualityPHL>
    - Includes an interactive map of monitoring stations in the city and which neighborhoods are most affected as well as available resources.
- **The U.S. COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declarations ended on May 11, 2023.**
  - This will cause changes in some benefits and services.
  - If you have questions about Medicaid and SNAP benefits, COVID testing, vaccines, and finding treatment, find more information here: <https://bit.ly/PHEendPHL>
- **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.
  - Now 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 from PDPH available at: <https://bit.ly/MedicaidReCert>
- Watch a video from The Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) about recent changes to Medicaid and what you should do to avoid healthcare disruptions: <https://www.youtube.com/@pahealthlaw>

### FAQ on Air Quality in Philadelphia

- **Why did the air suddenly become dangerous to breathe? What's going on?**
  - There are currently hundreds of wildfires burning across eastern Canada.
    - These wildfires are creating an enormous amount of smoke that is blanketing the northeast United States.
  - Wildfire smoke contains very fine particles, called PM 2.5, that can get deep into people's lungs and cause damage.
- **Who is at risk from this unhealthy air?**
  - Everyone in Philadelphia should be concerned and take precautions.
  - We're especially worried about people who are sensitive to air quality problems, such as:
    - People with lung or heart conditions
    - People who are pregnant
    - Older adults and young children and infants
    - People who will be doing strenuous activities or work outdoors
- **How long will this last?**
  - Because the cause of the smoke is in Canada, we don't know how long this could last.
    - It might get better soon. It might get worse, which is why it's important for folks to stay informed and up to date on the latest recommendations.
- **How can I get the latest recommendations and more information?**
  - For the latest information on the situation and how to stay safe:
    - Sign up for emergency alerts by texting ReadyPhila to 888-777
  - Check the latest air quality conditions in Philly: <https://bit.ly/AirQualityPHL>
    - Check this PDPH blog post for the latest recommendations: <https://bit.ly/AirQualityAlertPHL>

### 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.

### Extreme Heat: Resources and Services

- ReadyPhiladelphia: <https://bit.ly/ReadyPhiladelphiaSignUp> or text "ReadyPhila" to 888-777
  - Ready Philadelphia is the City's free notification system that provides you with emergency information. Be the first to know when a heat emergency will be declared.

- Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) Helpline: 215-765-9040
  - During a Heat Health Emergency, the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) operates a call center for people to get heat safety tips, resources and speak with Health Department nurses.
- Philadelphia Extreme Heat Guide: [www.phila.gov/heat](http://www.phila.gov/heat)
  - Explore who is at risk, how to stay safe, why it is getting hotter and resources.
  - A one stop shop for everything about extreme heat in the City of Philadelphia.

#### COVID-19: Resources and Services

- **Where to find COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses:**
  - Call 215-685-5488 or visit [vaccines.gov](http://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](http://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**
  - Find free tests and testing sites at: [https://bit.ly/Covid19\\_test](https://bit.ly/Covid19_test)

#### PDPH 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](http://phila.gov/COVID), [facebook.com/phillyhealth](https://facebook.com/phillyhealth) and [twitter](https://twitter)

#### 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**