

Philadelphia Biweekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest News

- **Philadelphia's Racial Equity Strategy Dashboard Launched**
 - The City of Philadelphia, through its Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), launched Philadelphia's Racial Equity Strategy Dashboard, a new accountability tool that will help the City track progress in achieving racial equity and provide a transparent, accessible way for residents to see the steps that are being taken to eliminate racial disparities in all areas of City government.
 - To date, 23 City departments have completed their initial racial equity action plans and by the end of 2023, all departmental racial equity action plans will be complete. This is an unprecedented commitment by City agencies, which has resulted in new programs and policies to improve city operations and services.
 - For more information and to visit the dashboard: <https://bit.ly/EquityDashPHL>
- **Heavy rains cause a risk of flooding in some areas of the city.**
 - Flooding presents many risks to people in Philadelphia, including health hazards.
 - Be the first to know!
 - Get free emergency or weather alerts from the City of Philadelphia.
 - Text READYPHILA to 888-777 or visit www.phila.gov/OEM to sign up.
 - For more information check out the FAQ below or visit: <https://bit.ly/SevereStormsPHL>
- **Call for Applicants: Community Resilience & Environmental Justice Fund**
 - Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability, with support of the Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission and William Penn Foundation, is launching this Fund.
 - This Fund will support community groups working to ensure that all Philadelphia residents have a livable community, free of environmental toxins and hazards. This means:
 - Clean air, land, and water
 - Healthy, fresh, and culturally appropriate foods
 - Homes, jobs, and neighborhoods free from pollutants and toxins
 - Communities that are resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and extreme heat
 - This Fund will provide a 12-month grant of \$10,000 to organizations and projects working towards long-term environmental justice in Philadelphia.
 - Applications due Wednesday, July 26th
 - More information available at: <https://philacityfund.org/crej-fund/>
- **Early Childhood Education Centers can get FREE Air Purifiers:** <https://bit.ly/AirPurifierPHL>
- **Residents can get FREE KN95 masks, COVID-19 test kits and more at PDPH Resource Hubs:** <https://bit.ly/ResourceHubsPHL>
- **The U.S. COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declarations ended on May 11, 2023.**
 - This is causing 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>

Frequently Asked Questions on Flooding

- **How can I prepare for a flood?**
 - Make sure your valuables, electronics, and appliances are above the floor in your basement or lowest level of your home.
 - You can use shelving units or plastic storage totes.
 - Prepare enough supplies to last you and your family for at least three days in case you need to leave your home.
 - Make sure your kit has the following items:
 - Medications
 - Food and water
 - 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
 - For more information on building your own preparedness kit, visit www.ready.gov/kit
 - If you take medication:
 - Always have at least a one-week supply of medications.
 - 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.
- **What should I do during and after a flood?**
 - Avoid flood waters.
 - DO NOT drive or walk across flooded roads.
 - Flood waters contain harmful germs, chemicals, and trash.
 - Wash your hands if you touch flood water.
 - Avoid mosquito bites.
 - Get rid of standing water.
 - Make sure window and door screens are in place.
 - Use mosquito repellent.
 - If you lose power.
 - Discard food that has been in a non-running refrigerator for more than four hours.
 - Replace medications that require refrigeration.

- **Why should I prepare for severe weather?**
 - Philadelphia will experience more frequent and more severe storms than it has historically.
 - The climate emergency is causing:
 - More precipitation.
 - Heavier and more frequent storms can cause bodies of water to overflow more often.
 - Storm surge.
 - Coastal storms are getting stronger and more frequent and can cause water to rise above normal levels.
 - Sea level rise.
 - Some areas of Philadelphia are at risk of sea level rise and flooding.
- **What is the best way to know if a heavy storm is coming to Philly?**
 - Get free emergency or weather alerts from the City of Philadelphia.
 - Text READYPHILA to 888-777 or visit www.phila.gov/OEM to sign up.
- **Get more information at:** <https://bit.ly/SevereStormsPHL>

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
 - 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 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**
 - Find free tests and testing sites at: 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.

PDPH Information

- **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)
- **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.

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