

Community Response Partner Network

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

February 26, 2025



LATEST NEWS ON THE NORTHEAST PLANE CRASH

- **The City established a hotline for ongoing case management and support for residents and businesses recovering from aircraft crash in Northeast Philadelphia on January 31, 2025.**
 - Anyone needing resources or follow-up can call 215-586-3400.
 - The [online blog](#), which includes a [Resource Assistance Directory](#), will continue to be updated.
- **The Red Cross case deadline is Wednesday, February 26, 2025.**
 - Support services are still available through the American Red Cross.
 - Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) by Wednesday, February 26, 2025 to open a case and see if you are eligible for financial assistance in addition to other services.
- **The Small Business Support application deadline is Friday, February 28, 2025.**
 - Small businesses can apply for up to \$20,000 in grant support through [the Merchants Fund Emergency Relief Grants](#) to help alleviate economic hardship caused by the plane crash disaster.
 - The application deadline to apply is **February 28, 2025**.
- **The Mayor's Business Action Team continues to provide personalized assistance by holding in-person office hours.**
 - Staff can assist with questions, operational challenges, financial support program applications, and share resources.
 - Upcoming date: **Friday, February 28** from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Northeast Regional Library 2228 Cottman Avenue, 19149.
 - Find more details [here](#).

BIRD FLU (H5N1) UPDATE

- **Find the latest updates on bird flu in Philadelphia:**
<https://bit.ly/BirdFlu2025>.
- **The current bird flu outbreak - also called avian influenza, H5N1, or HPAI - started in February 2022.**
 - 70 people have contracted bird flu in the U.S., none reported in Pennsylvania.
 - 37 commercial poultry flocks, 44 backyard flocks, and many wild birds have individually tested positive in Pennsylvania.
 - Some of those wild birds were found in Philadelphia and the health department has responded.
- **Risk for Philadelphians**
 - If you don't work closely with chickens, other poultry, dairy cows, or wild birds, your risk of getting bird flu is low.
 - Still, it's best to avoid direct contact with these animals to stay safe.
- **This virus could spread from animals to people:**
 - if you touch something with the virus and touch your eyes, nose, or mouth
 - if you eat, drink, or inhale droplets in the air contaminated with the live virus
 - if you touch sick or dead animals infected with virus
 - if a liquid containing live virus splashes into your eyes, nose, or mouth (for example, raw cow's milk from an infected cow)
- **Contact a healthcare provider if you have been around birds or animals and are sick with any of the following symptoms:**
 - Eye redness, fever, cough, sore throat, trouble breathing, runny/stuffy nose, body aches or diarrhea
 - Be sure to tell them you have been around live birds.
- **To protect yourself, wash your hands often and get vaccinated for seasonal flu.**
 - To find a flu vaccine, visit: <https://bit.ly/FluPHL>.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE PARTNER NETWORK RESOURCES

PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Learn more about respiratory viruses and people with disabilities.

- Respiratory virus resources: bit.ly/RespVirusResources
- Tailored health promotion materials: bit.ly/CDCHealthPromo

Sign up for ReadyPhiladelphia alerts - text 'ReadyPhila' to 888-777!

- You can receive free text messages on emergencies, such as severe weather.
- Alerts are available in English, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Swahili, and American Sign Language (ASL).
- Be the first to know, then share important information with family and neighbors.

Text-to-911 in Philadelphia

- People who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and anyone facing communication barriers can use this service to send an emergency text to 911 in Philly: bit.ly/PATextTo911

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests!

- Visit a Health Department Resource Hub for testing kits (three kits per person): bit.ly/ResourceHubsPHL. No insurance or ID required.
- Community-based organizations, organizers, venues, and the public can apply to receive 100 free at-home kits and face masks to share with their communities: bit.ly/TestKitDistrib

Free COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured and underinsured Philadelphians:

- To find the most up to date information on COVID vaccination: bit.ly/COVIDvaxPHL

PDPH INFORMATION

Have a question? Contact the Call Center at 215-685-5488.

- The PDPH Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 5:00PM.
 - Press 3 for interpretation in your language, press 2 for Spanish.
 - Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.

Find us online!

- Health Department website: phila.gov/health
- Health Department social media: facebook.com/phillyhealth and twitter@PHLPublicHealth.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

- Sign up at bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse to get essential public health information, then share with your family, friends, and community.
- Questions or suggestions? Email us at publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov or call us at 215-429-3016 with any questions or suggestions.
- To view an archive of past Community Response Partner Network (CRPN) newsletters, visit: bit.ly/PHPOutreachNewsletter.