

PFT COVID-19 Update 4-29-20: AFT, AFTPA, & PA Reopen Info- Stats- Symptoms- AFT Mourns- South Hills Middle Vid- links

# CORONAVIRUS



## Updates

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### **Two Reopening Updates from AFT and AFTPA Coming Tomorrow.**

Keep your eyes peeled for two important updates that should answer a number of questions we have about plans for reopening schools.

- AFT is putting the finishing touches on a "5 Pillar Plan" nationally that we will share when it becomes finalized.
- AFTPA has also been hard at work collaborating with civic leaders, state representatives and teachers (of course) on specific reopening plans for Pennsylvania.

We will share both with members ASAP!

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### **Information on Reopening PA Systematically.**

Governor Wolf has outline phased “steps” for reopening Pennsylvania businesses that at first glance might seem imposing—however this graphic and link to Wolf’s PA Covid-19 resources page helps to sort out (and explain) what’s going to happen next in PA, and why.

**Reopening Pennsylvania**  
The **6** standards we'll follow

 <b>Our approach will be data driven</b>	 <b>There needs to be enough personal protective equipment and testing</b>
 <b>There will still be limitations on large gatherings</b>	 <b>Individuals, employers, and health care facilities will have guidance to follow</b>
 <b>Protections for vulnerable people must remain in place</b>	 <b>Monitoring must be in place so we can take quick action to contain COVID-19 if needed</b>

[governor.pa.gov/plan](http://governor.pa.gov/plan)

As educators, it's important for us to [follow the science, do the math and understand the steps in the process.](#)

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### Sobering Animated Reminder of What We're Still Up Against.

As hundreds in PA and thousands more across the country have grown impatient with social distancing measures and the significant constraints placed on both personal and business interaction, serious statistics clearly demonstrate the threat of COVID-19.

[Take a moment to view this animated timeline that starkly reveals just how fast](#) this virus became **America's leading cause of death**—*while* a vast majority of states were already on lockdown.

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### Additional Coronavirus Symptoms Added.

With allergy season here and nearly in full-bloom so to speak, it's important to know what's what when it comes to COVID-19 symptoms.

[This Post-Gazette article explains new symptoms of the virus](#) recently released by the CDC, including chills and shaking, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and loss of taste or smell.

**\*\* And speaking of the [CDC, their updated webpage on managing coronavirus stress](#) (and *helpful associated subpages*) might be of particular assistance right after learning there are now more COVID-19 symptoms to be aware of. \*\***

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### Every Life Lost Is Precious—AFT Mourns Our Members.

We share this [memorial page with you in solemn solidarity with AFT](#) to mourn the loss of members to coronavirus, and have also placed a link to this page on our website homepage.



## South Hills Middle Shares Hopeful Signs Of Better Days Ahead.



We begin to wind down our school-produced messages of encouragement with this video from South Hills 6-8 (**Michael Andreychak, David Pilarski and Richard Ricci, Building Reps**)... with Westwood and Spring Hill yet to go...

Continue to share inspiring school messages with us, and we'll do our level best to share with PFT members! **Send youtube links to dan\_evans@pft400.org.**

\*\* PFT Coronavirus Updates Now Every Wednesday. \*\*

Missed an update or message? [View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here.](#)

### Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website](#) *(login upper right)*

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey](#)

[Student Debt Relief Resources](#)



### Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control](#)

[Allegheny County Health Department Rumor Control](#)

**Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.**

**In solidarity—**

**Nina Esposito-Visgitis**

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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please [click here](#).