

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Masks, Explained.

For a distinct subset of people locally, regionally and nationwide, the idea of wearing a mask in public spaces and within private businesses during the pandemic is controversial, difficult or upsetting.



Our policy here has been to follow the CDC and state’s guidance when provided, and wear a mask properly as directed to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 community spread. While a mask isn’t a vaccine or a cure or treatment, there is considerable logic and data to now support their regular use.

We’ve sourced a simple, direct and non-judgmental article from Dr. Malcolm Butler—Chief Medical Officer at Columbia Valley Community Health in Wenatchee, Washington. The following is an important read no matter where you stand on what’s being asked of us all: which is simply to mask up whenever we are out and about.

Click here to read: [“Why You Should Wear A Mask \(It’s the air you share\).”](#)

PA State Resources Are Anchored Securely Online.

Five months into the teeth of the pandemic—and information (*both authentic and questionable*) flows like a mighty river across televised, print and interactive media.

There’s no telling how the pandemic has affected you or yours personally, however having an anchor for ongoing information as it has been rigorously developed can be a welcome way to “ground yourself” in concrete knowledge.

[The Plan For Pennsylvania webpage is such a resource](#)—and includes information that extends well beyond up to the minute COVID-19 Updates, including:

- Relief, Reopening and Recovery Information
- Process to Reopen PA
- COVID-19 Resource Guide
- COVID-19 In PA
- Find Food Assistance
- Learn More About UC Benefits
- Get Mental Health Help
- Resources for Businesses

[Click here to visit the Plan For Pennsylvania anchor page.](#) Additional sourced COVID-19 and additional links of interest are at the bottom of this email.

Our Census Participation Is NOT Mutually Exclusive of the COVID Pandemic.

FULL Census Participation Means Proper Education Funding, Infrastructure Investment, Accurate Representation and More.

With Pennsylvania facing a multi-billion dollar state budget shortfall, the 2020 Census is now even more critical to the well being of all Pennsylvanians. The entire nation will be competing for Federal dollars—funding, resources and representation that is proportionally allocated using Census figures.

Every person living here must be counted to make a measurable difference when it comes to **education funding**, infrastructure and human services allocations, and accurate, fair congressional representation.

Every person means everyone—your responses on a mail-in Census form or when you complete the Census on-line are COMPLETELY confidential and protected by U.S. law. **This is about counting people—plain and simple—not citizenship status!**


[Click here to fill out \(or share the link\) for the 2020 Census.](#)

[Click here to track Census response progress across the country, state or locally.](#)

** UPDATE: Census Takers Are Following Up with Non-responding Households

Starting July 16, census takers will begin interviewing households that have yet to respond to the 2020 Census in regions managed by the area census offices on [this map](#).

In subsequent weeks, the Census Bureau will announce additional census offices as it prepares to begin enumeration activities nationwide. The majority of census offices across the country will begin follow-up work on August 11. **All offices will conclude work no later than October 31.**



CENSUS 2020
Every Person Counts!

The Census Helps to Determine

- Essential **PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING**
- **TRANSPORTATION** & Highway Funding
- Fair Congressional **REPRESENTATION**

The Census is Vital to Fully Funding
Head Start Programs **Section 8** Housing
CHIP Children's **Health Insurance** Program
Title 1 Schools **SNAP** Benefits **Special** Education

Your Information is **Completely CONFIDENTIAL**
and **PROTECTED** by UNITED STATES LAW.

BE SURE to Complete CENSUS 2020
On-Line ... by Mail ... or in Person.
Learn more at census.gov

Bill Nye The Science Guy Conducts a Telling Mask Experiment with Gayle King on CBS This Morning.



[Click to watch and learn!](#)

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](#)

** PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Periodically **

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

7/22/2020

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

In solidarity—

Nina Esposito-Visgitis

Sent via 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](#).