

PFT COVID Update 11-11-20: Vaccine News - COVID Stats - New Mask Guidance - Covid-v-Flu - Links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Looking Forward to a Vaccine

Promising vaccine news is on the horizon—with emphasis on the word “horizon”. That’s the stance of PA’s top health official as plans are being put into place to manage the distribution of vaccine systematically to the most at-risk populations first.

“Masks, hand sanitizer, physical distancing, and smaller gatherings will still be part of day-to-day life, even after a vaccine is rolled out,” said PA Health Secretary Rachel Levine. “(A vaccine) is not going to be a magical cure for the coronavirus and will not immediately end the pandemic,” adding that it will take “many months” to get enough of the population vaccinated and slow community spread.

[Click this link to read the full update in this PA Spotlight article.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the vaccine in development by Pfizer](#) that made headlines early this week. Still miles to go, but early information is promising on a wholly new approach to viral vaccine development.

And finally, [here’s an interesting twist in development at the University of Pittsburgh](#) (where else?); a potential Covid-19 treatment or prevention breakthrough that rides on llamas.

COVID Across the State and in Allegheny County

The headline of the *Public Source* article that follows doesn’t do justice to the story’s statewide detail and information about Coronavirus. This is a broad-spectrum look at the current state of affairs across many aspects of pandemic-affected life in PA, with relevant links, charts and statistics.

Be sure to review the article [PA Breaks Another Record of New Cases](#) to get current on Covid-19.

New Guidance Released on the Benefits of Wearing a Mask

The “**Healthy Tip of the Week**” at the end of your weekly PFT Tuesday Blast has included this simple advice for months now: [Wear a mask](#). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently updated their guidance on mask wearing to include statistical support suggesting that masks also protect mask-wearers from infection, as well as those around them.

[Click here to read a Fox News article that explains this new guidance](#) in detail, and includes links to stories that support this amplification from the CDC.

Reminder From Previous Update: COVID v Flu

Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. Flu and COVID-19 share many characteristics, but there are some key differences between the two. [Click here to learn more](#).

Use the links below if you need your flu vaccination for the year—due to social distancing constraints, the PFT will not be hosting a vaccination clinic this fall.

[Downtown clinic open for flu vaccines](#)
[Article on finding flu vaccines in your area](#)

The CDC's Influenza dashboard is up and running for 2020-2021--[click here to track national flu statistics as they develop](#).

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](#)

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

[Coronavirus Testing Locations \(view interactive map mid page\)](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

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

**** PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Periodically As Needed ****

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

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

In solidarity—

Nina Esposito-Visgitis

