

PFT COVID Update 1-6-21: D.C. Statement - Vaccine Availability - COVID Variant - AFT Form - Info links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

ON Today's Violence in Washington D.C.

While our bi-monthly coronavirus update is important to our members—we cannot present this week's edition without first stating how devastated we are by the actions of election protesters in Washington D.C. this afternoon.

The PFT stands absolutely on the side of America's free and fair elections and electoral process—messy as they can be sometimes. We denounce the reprehensible and dangerous display of anti-American sentiment by election protestors today in our nation's Capitol.

The PFT believes in the power of solidarity and the collective force of a united and organized voice; we believe in the power of peaceful protest and collective action when justice isn't served.

But storming our nation's Capitol because you do not agree with the legitimate, accurate, legislatively approved and judicially supported result of our national election borders on sedition — and in our opinion, should be treated as such.

We hope that no one is seriously injured or worse, and we pray that cooler, calmer heads prevail during this deeply challenging time in our nation's history.

The Realities of PA's Vaccine Rollout

According to PA Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine, “...*It will be months before vaccine becomes available to the general public in Pennsylvania.*”

She added that 135,000 Pennsylvanians have received a vaccine to date, and that the state expects 167,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, and 80,000 of the Moderna, will arrive this week, [according to this article in TribLIVE.](#)

And while educators and school personnel are part of the “1B” tier of essential workers prioritized in statewide vaccine delivery, the truth of the matter is that the COVID-19 vaccine rollout will take time—both in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

So in so many respects, what we know today is still what we need to know for tomorrow. And for weeks and months to come.

- Wear a mask in public.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Do not gather indoors, or in large groups.
- Maintain social distancing protocols.
- Limit travel and visitation to essential needs.
- Follow CDC guidelines if you’ve been exposed, and if you contract the virus.

[Click here to understand the CDC guidance on vaccine rollout and prioritization](#) in the weeks and months to come.

New Covid Variant In U.S. Exacerbates Holiday Surge

With a mutated version of the Coronavirus (*variant B.1.1.7*) now present in the United States, the nation’s leading infectious disease expert, Dr. Tony Fauci, explains how an already deadly potential holiday surge in cases and fatalities could possibly get even worse.

[Read the full story in this Newsweek article.](#)

AFTPA Launches Online Form for Health Requirement Complaints

On behalf of its 36,000 members and 61 locals, AFT Pennsylvania recently released a webform for educators, staff, students, parents, and community members to report non-compliance with the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health’s November 24, 2020 Order Directing Public School Entities in Counties with Substantial Community Transmission to Attest to Health and Safety Protocols.

To learn more about the impetus for the creation of this interface and submission form, [click here to read the Post-Gazette story.](#)

To access the AFTPA reporting [form page and background, please click 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)*

[AFT Share My Lesson Stress Management Resources](#) *(searchable)*

[Download the PA COVID-Alert Tracking App](#)

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

[CDC Vaccine Information Landing Page](#)

[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