

PFT COVID Update 2-17-21: Get Vaccinated - Biden on Teachers - AFT Covid Update - Nationwide Status - links

# CORONAVIRUS



## Updates

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### **Vaccine Resources for 1A Qualified Teachers and Staff.**

While we continue to try and move heaven and earth to secure vaccinations for Pittsburgh Public Schools staff, we are also advising any PFT member (or PPS employee) who now qualifies within the “1A First Tier” vaccine category to **take any opportunity you can to schedule your vaccine on your own if the opportunity arises.**

[Click here to view the expanded “1A” category on the PA Department of Health website.](#)

We are hearing the horror stories about some of the resources being used to try and schedule your vaccination on your own. We understand your frustration—vaccination appointments are as difficult to secure as the vaccine itself. Here’s how we can help.

**We’ve compiled resources below to help you cut through the significant clutter** of trying to schedule on your own through shaky resources. The link that follows is the one we’ve found most recently that seems to stay up to date:

[https://vaccinatepa.org/counties/Allegheny\\_County](https://vaccinatepa.org/counties/Allegheny_County): *A statewide volunteer effort for Pennsylvanians to more quickly, easily and confidently identify where and how to get vaccinated—or find a waiting list to join. The site centralizes vaccine availability information and verifies and publishes updates on a daily basis.*

We’ve also created an entire separate page of linked resources—[View, share or download our Additional Resources Document](#) here.

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### **President Biden Advocates Prioritizing Teachers for Vaccines.**

In his first televised town hall as President, Joe Biden gave a honest but guarded response concerning the subject of reopening schools without vaccinating teachers. When pressed, he did reiterate that though the final decision is up to individual states, he believes that teachers should be prioritized for vaccination for the safest return to school.

[View the CNN clip here.](#)

At the above link, you can choose to scroll through individual questions asked during the event last night, or watch the entire town hall using the links below:

[Milwaukee Presidential Town Hall Part 1](#)

[Milwaukee Presidential Town Hall Part 2](#)

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## **AFTPA Offers an Excellent Coronavirus Update.**

They are benefits of membership often underused by our members, but both the national [AFT website](#) as well as our state [AFTPA website](#) are loaded with information and opportunities for PFT members. These include national and statewide news, political information, news about education and educators, sign ups for specifically-themed newsletters, webinars and more.

The most recent [AFTPA Coronavirus Update](#) was so full of relevant information, this week we're choosing simply to share the full update with our members (*some of you may have already signed up for this at the AFTPA website*).

### **A sampling of topics include:**

- CDC and Unions Top List of Most Trusted Authority on School Reopening (*neat graphic, too*)
- Educators Overwhelmingly Want to Return, with Protections in Place
- Dr. Fauci Agrees Resources Are What's Needed Most, Now
- Educators, Wolf at Odds Over Vaccination Rollout
- Coronavirus Cases Dropping
- Get the COVID-19 Tracking App

...and more.

[Click here to view, share or download the most recent AFTPA Coronavirus Update.](#)

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## **Speaking of Updates and Newsletters ...**

Today's *New York Times* newsletter offers an extensive dive into the dual issues of vaccine manufacturing and equitable efforts for distribution across the United States. It's a great read with even better information linked within the document. [Click here to read the first article in the Times Coronavirus Newsletter.](#)

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## **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