

# CORONAVIRUS



## Updates

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### Be On The Lookout For...

... e-mail communications from the district today that will include an important vaccine FAQ video from a medical expert at UPMC—the provider working in partnership with the Allegheny County Department of Health to secure PPS vaccinations as safely and as quickly as possible.

Keep your eyes on your B.O.E. email—and let us know if the communications are helping you. *Have other questions?* [Feel free to click here to submit them specifically to us.](#)

Here are the results from the recent PPS vaccination survey of all school staff. (*Subject to change/update*):

**RESPONSE RATE: 83%**

Number of Employees: 4608

Number of Responses: 3826

Number of Yes Responses: 2693—70.3%

Number of Undecided: 17.6%

Number of No's: 326

Number of Employees Already Vaccinated: 124

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### Pandemic News From Across The Country

In the meantime, here's the latest news on ramping up the vaccine supply nationwide while expanding distribution of the vaccine using pharmacies. [Check out this article from \*The New York Times\*.](#)

**One question that keeps coming up** is how the emergence of Covid-19 variants (*new strains*) will affect the current vaccination protocols. Simply put—the variants make getting vaccinated as

soon as possible an even more urgent priority.

A sweeping survey article on NPR asks (*and answers*) a lot of pandemic-related vaccine questions—including an entire section devoted to understanding variants. [Click here to read the full article on NPR.](#)

*Here is an excerpt from the article:*

**Given these new variants, is there anything I can do to improve my chances of avoiding COVID-19?**

Sure. Fauci and Walensky, the CDC's chief, both recommend getting immunized with one of the vaccines authorized in the U.S. as soon as you are eligible — widespread vaccination will very likely help stop the spread of whatever strains of the coronavirus are circulating in your area and lessen the development of new mutations and strains.

And continue to [keep your distance from people outside your household, wear a mask, and avoid travel and crowds](#) even after you're fully vaccinated, until the level of virus spreading in your community and any place you go is very low.

## Information on Covid Vaccine Available To Expanded 1A Categories.

Clearly there are forces hard at work to secure vaccines as soon as possible for everyone within PPS who wants them (*see above*). However, if you are part of the recently expanded 1A category, you are eligible to receive your vaccine now. The information below may help you secure a vaccine even earlier than what might be available through the PPS partnership.

[Click here to take the PA Department of Health's "1A" quiz here to see if you qualify.](#)

(click "Step 1: Check to See if You're Eligible")

Regional news source *PA Spotlight* provided an article late last month containing a handy interactive vaccine availability tracker—information that will be updated periodically. [Click here to read the article and view the tracker.](#)

*Still have questions about the vaccine?* [Click here for answers from PPS Partner UPMC.](#)

**Reminder:** [All PFT Coronavirus E-mails Are Archived 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**