

PFT COVID Update 3-17-21: Vaccination Update - What Now - Restrictions Easing - links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Vaccinations in Progress or Completed for Thousands of PPS Staff.

Last week saw not one but two vaccination clinic efforts for PPS staff inclusive of countless PFT members. Whether they received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or participated in the Giant Eagle clinic on Thursday or Friday (*receiving dose number one of the two-dose Pfizer vaccine*), we estimate that well over 3,000 staff members have begun or completed the COVID vaccination process.

Congratulations to you all for “rolling up your sleeves” for this vital measure of protection, and inestimable thanks to the wide array of forces who came together to make this all possible in such a short amount of time—we will be sharing a huge list of people and groups to thank in a future update!

The goal was—and still is—that any PPS staff member and any PFT member who wishes to be vaccinated should have the opportunity to get one free of charge.

For those who may have decided recently to get the vaccine, or perhaps had scheduling conflicts last week, please click here to see recent [news about Giant Eagle extending their clinic through Thursday March 18th from 1-4:00 pm](#). (*Specific instructions and link are in the article.*)

So You’ve Been Vaccinated. Now What?

Or more specifically, what can you now do that you couldn’t do before? At every instance throughout this pandemic, we’ve tried to answer such questions by linking to resources you can trust—and the links below are no exception.

In fact, for those who have been vaccinated, we're not sure there's a better page to explain "what's next" than what is available below from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

What does it mean to be considered "fully vaccinated?"

What has changed about COVID restrictions if I am fully vaccinated?

What has not changed even if I am fully vaccinated?

What do we know now, and what are we still learning?

Click here to view [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated - How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)

Click here to view [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)

Wolf Announces Easing of COVID Restrictions Beginning April 4th.

Whether you've been vaccinated or not, below please find the direct message from Governor Tom Wolf regarding the easing of restrictions in Pennsylvania. ([Reproduced from the Governor's Facebook page here.](#))

COVID-19 update: As cases decline and vaccination rates climb, I'm announcing the lifting of targeted restrictions on restaurants and other businesses effective April 4.

We'll also be expanding gathering limits to 25% for indoor events and 50% for outdoor.

Effective April 4, we'll also increase capacity for other businesses to 75%, including personal services facilities, gyms, and entertainment facilities like casinos, theatres, malls.

Mask-wearing, social distancing, and other worker safety measures will still be in place. We've come so far — but now is not the time to stop the safety measures we have in place to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. More information: <http://on.pa.gov/3vlyLk>

To the above we would add only this: News like this is possible because of a (*difficult but getting slowly better*) vaccine rollout combined with so many of our friends, neighbors and businesses still complying with basic COVID mitigation factors: Mask up. Wash up. Keep your distance. Avoid medium to large gatherings.

EFFECTIVE APRIL 4, 2021

Pennsylvania Lifts Targeted Restrictions on Restaurants

PERMITTED	PERMITTED
Bar service at restaurants	Alcohol service without the purchase of food
REMOVED	EXPANDED
Curfew for removing alcoholic drinks from tables	Indoor capacity at 75% for self-certified restaurants

Now is not the time to let our guard down. Continue the discipline necessary to protect one another and to keep the good news coming!

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
