

PFT COVID Update 3-3-21: Teacher Vaccinations - More on J & J - Vaccines & Pregnancy - Town Hall - links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Governor Wolf Says PA Will Prioritize Teachers, School Staff With J & J Vaccine.

The news heard across the state – and across our district – has to do with Governor Wolf’s announcement today that PA will prioritize vaccination for teachers using the recently approved Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine.

[Here is the latest story in the Post-Gazette](#), and it promises to remain updated as new information arises—most recently, officials and organizations from across our region and the state have chimed in on the Governor’s decision, including the PFT.

Yesterday there were multiple reports about this potential announcement—however it is our policy to not spread rumor, but to share news. That being said, [here is an excellent article published yesterday that provides significant background](#) on how this decision came to pass.

The article above also references the [unanimous resolution](#) passed by the PFT Executive Board in January, and contains key quotes from **PFT President Nina Esposito-Visgitis**. Voices raised together are heard!

You can watch a live-stream of the [Governor’s address on his Facebook page here](#). Keep your eye on District and PFT mail for updates on the next steps sure to emerge from this statewide news.

More About the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine.

To learn a little more about the new vaccine, [please check out this AP overview article that walks](#) you through the vaccine's approval process. See how it actually works, and differs, from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Here is the CDC general guidance on [what you may experience after getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

[Click here for the FDA's specific fact sheet and guidance for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#).

What To Expect With Vaccinations When You Are Expecting.

While there are **no tips we can share that are a substitute for a full discussion with your doctor**, for expectant mothers (and fathers) we imagine there are plenty of questions about vaccines and pregnancy.

The following information about pregnancy, breastfeeding, and the COVID-19 vaccine was shared with us by Kristi Burry, MPH, CHES, CPH Manager, Health and Prevention, Community Health at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

1. [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\)](#) – this FAQ is from the governing body for OB/GYNS. They clearly state that if you are breastfeeding you should get vaccinated.
2. [COVID-19 FAQ with Dr. Freeman and Dr. Green](#) – Vaccination during pregnancy and for lactating mothers is discussed starting at minute 24:00 of this video.
3. [UPMC FAQ About Breastfeeding and Lactation](#).
4. [CDC Information About Breastfeeding and Lactation](#).

Kristi promises to keep her eyes peeled for information specific to the J & J vaccine and pregnancy. Stay tuned.

And finally, if you didn't have a chance to attend the district town hall Q&A with Dr. Freeland yesterday, [you can watch it in its entirety by clicking here](#). Really informative event!

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