

CORONAVIRUS































Updates

New Mask Guidance For Fully Vaccinated Individuals

The CDC has [revised their guidance on mask wearing](#) for fully vaccinated individuals—marking a national step toward greater normalcy driven by the unprecedented pace of vaccine delivery across the country. Restrictions have relaxed on the requirement for wearing masks outdoors and within certain group situations, and stand to improve even more as more Americans become fully vaccinated.

Here's a handy summary chart that covers the new guidance in its entirety.

Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed

Take prevention measures

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask
 Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

[Click to view, share or download full graphic.](#)

Vaccine Hesitancy Emerges As New Obstacle

While the number of Americans who have received at least one dose of vaccine has surpassed 140 million (*with nearly 97 million Americans fully vaccinated*), there's still a long way to go to

begin to consider herd immunity as a potential reality—and the chief culprit for this appears to be politically partisan.

To review: Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune.

*A recent Monmouth University poll (taken prior to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause) revealed that **1 in 5 Americans say they won't get the COVID-19 vaccine. 45% of Republicans say they will avoid the vaccine as opposed to 22% of Independents and 5% of Democrats.***

[Read the complete article here.](#)

Letting Data Drive Vaccine Decision Making

The PFT has spared no effort in seeing to it that every member who wanted to be vaccinated could receive one in a timely manner. As a result, our **best estimate tells us that over 70% of PPS employees have received one of the three vaccines** available. (*Way to go!*)

Now our efforts turn to the equally difficult task of trying to convince the remaining 30% who have chosen not to be vaccinated to consider changing their mind. We fully understand the personal nature of such decisions, and we (*obviously*) are not licensed physicians.

All we can do is speak to the truth contained in the numbers.

[The data and information available from the CDC data tracker](#) (*and the interpretations of that data being shared by health officials like Dr. Fauci*) demonstrate that the vaccines are overwhelmingly **safe**, are remarkably **effective** in minimizing or preventing infections, and have materially contributed to the significant **downward national trend in new cases, reduced hospitalizations and fewer deaths.**

We are not out of the woods, however. We're still currently seeing about 60,000 new infections per day, and the rolling weekly average of Americans who have lost their lives to COVID-19 stands at a still-staggering 774 people a day.

If you're still on the fence about getting vaccinated, spend a little time reviewing the current statistics for yourself. Ultimately it's your decision—we're doing our level best to help you make an informed one.

[Click here to see the CDC Data Tracker.](#)

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 Data Tracking Page](#)

[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