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# CORONAVIRUS



## Updates

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### **The State Of The Union For Covid—We’re Not Out Of The Woods Yet.**

In this, the **50th edition of the PFT Coronavirus update**, we’re offering up one of the more compelling current assessments of “where we stand” as a nation in our ongoing battle against COVID-19.

The most important takeaway from [today’s NY TIMES newsletter](#) (*first article*) is that we have yet to fully surpass the imminent threat this virus represents. The good news is that it appears our aggressive national vaccination rollout—coupled with the sad reality of millions of Americans receiving a level of immunity by being exposed to the virus—has prevented a truly dire “fourth wave” of Coronavirus.

But nationwide, vaccine hesitancy and outright unwillingness to become part of fully vaccinated America presents a tangible obstacle to the herd immunity necessary for an authentic return to normalcy.

Despite the good news, it’s worth emphasizing that the crisis is not yet over. There are two big Covid problems, both involving vaccination.

First, roughly one in three American adults remain skeptical of the vaccine, including many older people, who are at the highest risk of severe versions of Covid. In the most recent poll by [the Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 13 percent of adults said they would definitely not get a shot; 6 percent said they would do so only if required by their employer, their school or another group; and 15 percent said they were waiting to see how the vaccines affected others. -- *David Leonhardt, NY Times*

[Please read the article in its entirety here](#)—and if you have yet to become fully vaccinated, we urge you to reconsider, for the reasons presented herein.

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## COVID Restrictions Loosening in Anticipation of Reopening Day, May 31st.

Governor Tom Wolf's office will loosen [COVID-19 occupancy limits on Monday, May 17th](#) and plans to lift them entirely at 12:01 a.m. on Memorial Day, May 31.

*The Morning Call* reports that twenty-one state lawmakers [want him to complete the rollback three days earlier](#), saying businesses need the full Memorial Day Weekend boost.

Wolf's answer? *Urge their constituents to get vaccinated.* Click the links above for more information.

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## Speaking of Vaccinations ...

\*\* The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for ages 12 through 15, effective as of May 10th. [Read the entire article on NPR by clicking here.](#)

\*\* For vaccine providers, [check Spotlight PA's map and county-by-county listing](#) (*current as of May 3rd*).

\*\* *Public Source* offers an article with a myriad of resources—[click here to view](#) (*last updated in April*).

\*\* [Click here to view When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#) - How to Protect Yourself and Others—From the CDC.

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

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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 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

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**\*\* 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**

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