

PFT COVID Update 9-8-21: Mask Mandate - Experts Weigh In - Under 12 Approval - Understanding Immunity - links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Mask Mandate Supported By Emerging Data.

Governor Wolf's [statewide mask mandate](#) for K-12 and day care centers went into effect on Tuesday, September 7th. And though opposed by the Republican-led state legislature and marked by sporadic protests against the measure, emerging data clearly supports the Governor's effort.

A recent WTAE story outlines the impact the surging Delta Variant has had on the population as a whole—in particular on Americans ages 11 or younger currently not eligible for the vaccine.

“More than 500,000 children tested positive for COVID-19 in the U.S. from Aug. 5 to Aug. 26, [according to state data](#) collected by the American Academy of Pediatrics. At least 203,962 of those cases were reported in the week of Aug. 19 to Aug. 26; In late June, one weekly reported number was just shy of 8,500.”

[Read the entire story by clicking here](#), and once inside the article, scroll to review current national vaccination dashboards to understand how much more work remains to be done in the area of vaccinating our population.

Medical and Professional Groups Standing Behind Mandate.

When acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam signed an order Tuesday requiring masks to be worn inside K-12 school buildings, early learning programs and child care providers—a host of medical and educational professionals voiced their support from across the state.

[Click here to read immediate reactions statewide](#) in a release from PA.gov, including Children's hospitals in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Penn State Health, the American Academy of

Pediatrics, The Western PA Regional Chief Medical Officers Consortium and more.

Both AFTPA and PSEA signaled their support for a mask mandate—**over three weeks ago**.

[Click to learn more.](#)

What's Taking So Long? Status of Vaccination Approval for Under 12's.

Vaccine authorization by the FDA is a rigorous process requiring widespread testing and time for data analysis; a process the organization is (rightfully) unwilling to short-shrift on account of public or political outcry.

[Click here to read an article from The Hill](#) that outlines the steps yet necessary to authorize vaccines as safe for children aged 5-12.

Understanding Vaccines, Waning Immunity and Why Boosters Are Likely Less Important Right Now.

If you'd like to take a deep, informative dive behind the scenes of the vaccine recommendations being made and mandates being considered in response to the Delta surge of the pandemic, look no further than this [in-depth article from The Atlantic](#).

In it you'll learn why and how vaccines work, why and how immunity sometimes wanes and why it is so important for proven-effective vaccines to be widely adopted by a large population facing a viral outbreak such as Covid-19.

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](#)

[Find a Vaccine Provider Near You](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)

-- A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#) (*includes login info*)

[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