

# CORONAVIRUS



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## Updates

Dear Dan:

### **Understanding Boosters – The Where’s, How’s and Why.**

When it comes to most vaccinations, nothing lasts forever. And that includes the robust protection enjoyed by the vast majority of people who have received full or partial Covid-19 vaccinations. It’s a fact of viral life that immunity – or more specifically, robust protection – will likely wane over time.

But rather than be a cause for overt concern, having a frank discussion about boosters should be reassuring and illuminating. Recently, WTAE offered an in-depth look at booster shots and waning immunity, a report that offered several reassurances that needing a vaccine booster is a logical, natural and necessary part of ongoing preventative care.

[Read the article \(rather than watch the video\) by clicking here.](#)

[Click here to view the nationwide vaccination finder](#) from the US Government.

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### **Understanding the Unvaxxed—They’re Not All Who You Think They Are.**

Given that America has yet to surpass the 60% fully vaccinated threshold among our total population, it’s reasonable to assume that the only certainty we have is that there is still a significant amount of uncertainty “out there.”

But when it comes to actively seeking out and accepting a free, proven and readily available vaccine against COVID 19, the reasons so many people are still hesitating or opting out aren’t always the reasons being featured on mainstream media.

Have there been large disinformation campaigns and mixed media messages?

**Yes.**

Is there a political and/or a racial contributor to vaccine resistance that makes a group more likely to be skeptical of vaccines overall? **Yes.**

**But there are other powerful forces at work here, including:**

- a lack of trust in healthcare systems that are already less accessible in many rural communities
- a lack of ready access to informed healthcare professionals to provide sound, trusted advice
- a significant number of people resisting vaccination who report a demonstrable fear of needles

Zeynep Tufekci of *The New York Times* breaks the issue down several ways in this fascinating look at the hardened resistance of Covid-19 constituencies who are still steering clear of vaccination. [Click here to read the whole article.](#)

[View the CDC Vaccine Data Tracker here.](#)

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**Coming Soon: Vaccine Eligibility for Ages 5-11.**

Breaking news in from the Associated Press this morning—federal regulators will meet over the next two weeks to weigh the safety and effectiveness of giving low-dose shots to the roughly 28 million children in that age group.

It's a moment whose time has been studied and debated for months, and in early November after the CDC advisory panel signs off on the recommendation, millions of low-doses will be distributed nationwide.

Health officials believe that expanding the vaccine drive will not only curb the alarming number of infections in children but also reduce the spread of the virus to vulnerable adults. It could also help schools stay open and youngsters get back on track academically, and contribute to the nation's broader recovery from the pandemic. -- AP

Data and research for vaccinations for children under 5 is still being compiled.

[Please click here to read the full age 5-11 vaccine eligibility article.](#)

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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](#)

[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—**

**Dan Evans**

**PFT Communications Director**