

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

UPMC Chimes In On Boosters, Child Vaccines, Pregnant Women & More.

Throughout the pandemic, the PFT has shared information relevant to understanding the ongoing fight against the Coronavirus, and we have unambiguously supported the AFT national position on vaccinations, school safety, masking, and mitigation for Covid-19.

We will continue to support emerging science and new, validated news; as well as the continued guidance provided by the AFT. ([Click here](#) to visit the comprehensive AFT Coronavirus resources page.)

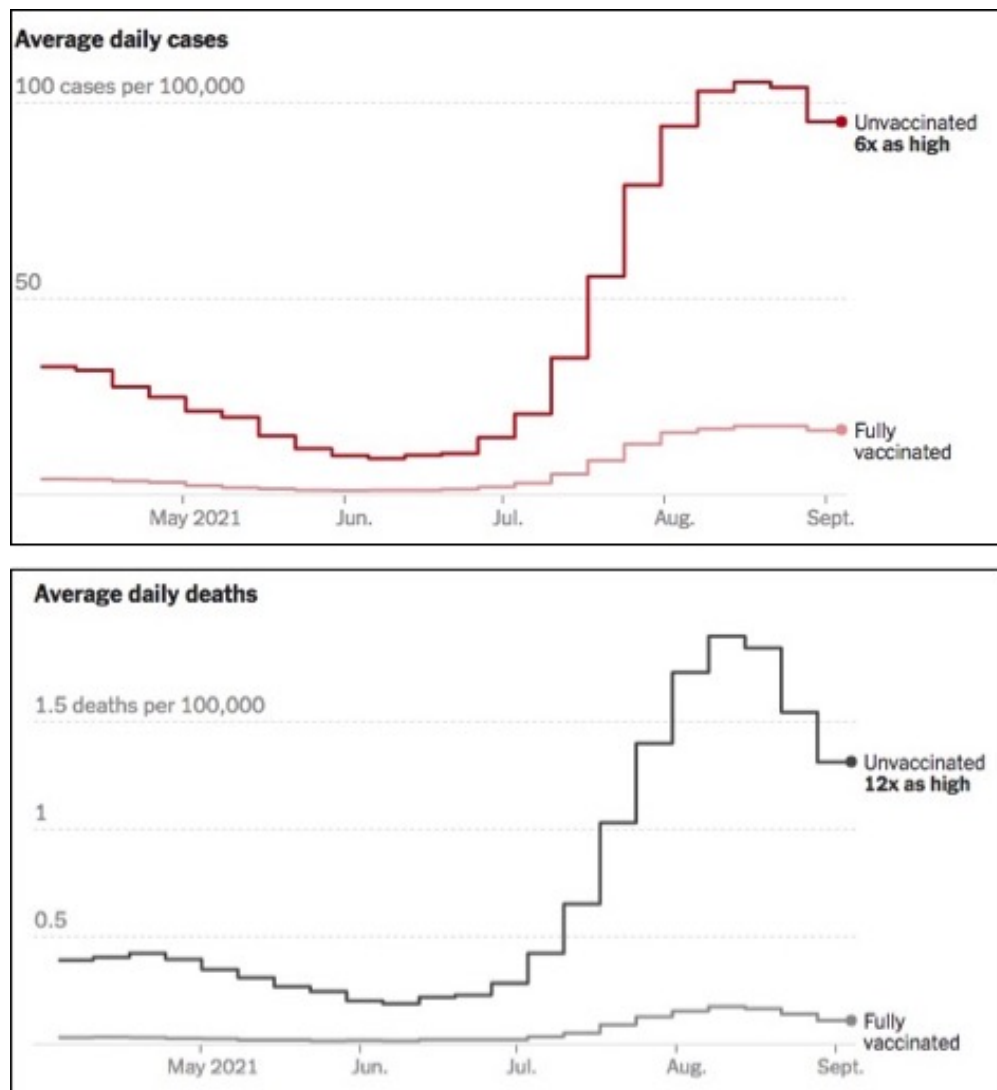
As such, we found this wide-ranging joint briefing from leaders at UPMC to be particularly interesting (*link follows*). Held late last week, this virtual briefing united UPMC's chief quality officer with the leaders of UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics.

[Both the video and the article from the briefing are available by clicking here.](#)

An Overseas Comparison Provides Insight and Warning.

As vaccine mandates begin to take hold and youth vaccinations have become widely available, the U.S. is now creeping toward 70% of our population having received at least one dose of vaccine, with nearly 60% now fully vaccinated.*

As a likely result, both hospitalizations and fatalities have been trending slowly downward nationwide, particularly among the vaccinated. **



** Image Source: [NY Times Data Tracker](#).

* Statistical Source: [CDC Data Tracker, Nov. 10 snapshot](#)

It is worth noting that not all regions of the world are on the same (*steadily positive*) trajectory in the fight against Covid-19. In a recent [CNN story](#), a deeper analysis reveals that [Europe is fast becoming the epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic](#) once again.

Europe overtook the US case count at the end of October—and all indicators point to a sporadic and uneven adoption of vaccinations and concerted mitigation as the reason why.

Europe's cautionary tale is one we hope will be heeded here—the pandemic is far from over, and we must continue to treat it accordingly.

*** **This Just In:** The **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IMHE)** reported a consistent and measurable uptick in cases nationwide recently. ***

Clarity Provided On Current Vaccine Myths: A Needed Reprise.

Current events in professional sports (*in the NFL and NHL*) have made it more important than ever to be able to distinguish fact from fiction when considering Covid-19 vaccination.

We fully recognize that vaccines do not represent a cure; that they are not perfect, and that they may pose some risk to some people--as all vaccinations invariably do. But they are risks that must be weighed against the staggering volume of positive, verifiable results data gleaned from over **7 billion doses administered globally**.

In other words, we understand that vaccine hesitancy remains a very real thing. That is why we are again sharing the AFT guide to dispelling the most common myths and misconceptions about Covid-19 vaccinations. [View the AFT Vaccine Mythbuster document here.](#)

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.

11/10/21, 9:20 PM

**In solidarity—
Dan Evans
PFT Communications Director**