

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

State Of The Covid Union: It's Not Over Yet.

But currently, COVID-19 is on the decline substantially enough to allow many states to cancel (*or schedule to cancel*) mask mandates and social distancing guidelines based on their overall low case rate, hospitalization rate and COVID deaths rate per capita. And while that's good news for most of us, it's not perfect news for all of us.

The elderly, the co-morbid, the immunocompromised and the unvaccinated are still at risk for illness or worse. As a result, these groups will still likely need to adhere to full pandemic guidelines for the highest level of personal safety available.

In other words, “know the room” and if you're in a position to help protect someone in one of those categories, mask up and keep your distance.

Additionally, we cannot escape the fact that this virus has:

- Taken the lives of over 950,000 Americans
- Infected nearly 80 million Americans
- Cost the lives of over 6 million people worldwide

And with a [daily confirmed COVID death rate of over 1,000 people a day](#) in the United States? We still have more work to do. Check out this [CBS News report](#) that extrapolates what the “next phase” of the pandemic might look like for most Americans.

Data Is Now Available On The Effectiveness Of Masks In School.

Truly scientific study often takes time—no matter how fast we'd like the answers to our most pressing questions. The question about the efficacy of universal masking in schools appears to

have a definitive answer now, courtesy of a joint study between the CDC, the [ABC Science Collaborative](#), and the journal *Pediatrics*.

In short? Masking in schools worked.

The data from the study released today offers the strongest evidence to date on the effectiveness of masking in curbing COVID spread in schools, regardless of whether or not students were vaccinated

As you might expect, there's a lot to digest to gain the full picture—we encourage you to [read the overview article from EducationWeek for a deeper perspective](#), and click the link above to learn more about the ABC Science Collaborative.

Vaccines 101: Your Questions, Answered.

After two years of the PFT Coronavirus Update, there's little more we can say about vaccines being our best defense against COVID. With nearly 11 BILLION doses administered globally across 184 countries* and countless studies demonstrating their overwhelming effectiveness, there's no need for us to keep "selling" them. (* [Source: Bloomberg Graphic Covid Tracker](#))

However, given the fluid nature of the pandemic as it wanes (*plus the potential for new emerging variants*) there may always be a need to ask new questions as the world adapts to a "new normal".

The [CDC Frequently Asked Questions page available here](#), combined with the up-to-date data tracker linked above from Bloomberg, should stand to answer almost any question you have about vaccines—today or tomorrow.

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