

PFT COVID Update 4-20-22: 200,000 Parents Lost - Another Booster - New Variant - Links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

The Human Toll Of Covid On Caregivers.

A nightmarish milestone is approaching our nation – soon we will have lost one million Americans at the hands of the Coronavirus since the pandemic was officially declared a little over 2 years ago.

What the nation has suffered is tragic, certainly — but almost so large in scope that it's hard to quantify the toll this virus has taken on American families.

If you consider that as many as 200,000 U.S. children have lost a parent to Covid-19, however, the reality of the situation — and its long-term consequences — take on a different perspective entirely.

Recently, *The New York Times* ran a story that looked carefully at individual lives upended permanently by COVID-19. In particular, the article focuses on how extended families have had to respond to a death in the family.

To ground yourself in this sobering reality, we invite you to [read the Times piece *As Families Grieve, Grandparents Step Up*](#).

Do You Need A Second Booster Shot?

An epidemiologist from the University of Texas tackled a significant pile of research to help you capably answer that question.

The New Pittsburgh Courier recently reprinted an article by Katelyn Jetelina, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Click here to read the article [Do you need a second](#)

[booster shot](#) in its entirety for keen insight into the effectiveness of vaccines against COVID, as well as recommendations for additional vaccinations beyond the third booster.

“The latest recommendations [from the CDC] have left many wondering about the importance of boosters for protection against COVID-19. Does the third shot wane over time? Is a fourth dose necessary? What if you’ve had a previous infection?”

After reviewing the mounting body of research on how the immune system shifts over time following each dose, it is clear that another booster for vulnerable populations has meaningful benefit with very little risk.” -- *Katelyn Jetelina*

Meet The New Variant: (Almost) The Same As The Last Variant.

This week the CDC reported that another Omicron subvariant is gaining traction in the United States. The subvariant, called BA.2.12.1, is an offshoot of the BA.2 version of omicron. ([See Covid Update for March 23.](#)) While BA.2 remains the dominant variant in the U.S., BA.2.12.1 now accounts for roughly 1 in 5 new cases nationwide.

The good news with this variant appears to be the same as the good news associated with BA.2. While this variant is even more contagious than BA.2—it does not initially appear that hospitalizations or deaths are increasing; only number of cases.

Want additional details? [Read this article from NBC News.](#)

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 sh

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