

PFT COVID Update 4-6-22: - Good News -- New Metrics -- Guidelines Then & Now - Links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Positive News On The Covid Front

The number of COVID cases, hospitalizations and fatalities nationwide has not risen proportionately with the emergence of the BA.2 Covid variant as the dominant strain of the coronavirus in America. That's good news overall—the most recent surge may not be as disruptive or as dangerous as either the Delta or Omicron variants were.

The [first article in today's Times' newsletter](#) breaks down the reasons we can be **cautiously optimistic** (*greater overall immunity from exposures, wider spread of vaccinations*), while also providing reasons to **remain both vigilant and wary as springtime arrives** (*underreported cases/testing, ongoing pockets of vaccine resistance within certain groups*).

[Click here to read the article in the New York Times newsletter](#)

Allegheny County Changing COVID Measurement Metrics

If you read the article above, you learned that the addition of readily available at-home testing has negatively affected accurate COVID case reporting and statistics across the country. Allegheny County is no exception—people who test and test positive at home are often not reporting the results to the Health Department (ACHD).

As a result , the ACHD is now including wastewater monitoring as an accurate measurement and indicator of COVID activity.

" ... Going forward, ACHD plans to release weekly reports of COVID data every Thursday, which will include familiar pandemic measurements, such as numbers of

hospitalizations, deaths, and new cases, as well as less-familiar metrics pertaining to the concentrations of COVID-19 found in the county's wastewater."

[Read the entire article in the Pittsburgh City Paper.](#)

Here Today, Different Tomorrow. By Necessity

If you think the changing guidelines for Covid mitigation and vaccine recommendations are sometimes confusing and even contradictory, you are not alone.

But if you take a moment to understand the big picture of a virus as it emerges, takes hold, mutates and spreads throughout a population – one whose own immuno-profile is changing month-to-month – it becomes easier to see that yesterdays rules and tomorrow's demands can both be correct based on meeting different moments.

We found the article [Tomorrow's COVID safety guidelines will be different from today's](#) on [newpittsburghcourier.com](#) – contributed by Dr. Michael Williams from the University of Virginia. We think it will help with the permanent state of change we've been in these last two years.

"... [We] have been **guilty on occasion of thinking** of policymakers as [backpedaling when guidance changes back and forth](#) or **being inconsistent** when [one state makes a certain decision while another does something else](#). But I've come to appreciate that that isn't the correct framing.

As variants emerge, targeted policies to counteract the new reality follow in quick order. Reinstating mask requirements after they have been dropped or recommending additional vaccine doses between waves may seem like 180-degree course corrections. **But in reality, these policy changes are the right reactions to the hurricane of COVID-19 that continues on its meandering path across the globe.** -- Dr. Michael Williams

[Click to read the whole article.](#)

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