

PFT COVID Update 5-18-22: New Variant News - More Free Tests - One Million Lost - Links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Same Tricks as the Previous New Variant ... but With More Transmissibility.

The BA.2.12.1 COVID Variant is now responsible for nearly 45% of all coronavirus cases in the country and climbing — jumping up in rank from only 7% of all cases in April.

Like previous COVID omicron strains, BA.2.12.1 often presents with upper respiratory symptoms that can appear similar to the flu. Experts say BA.2.12.1 is triggering mild breakthrough cases in vaccinated individuals with people feeling like they are suffering from a cold or seasonal allergies.

To learn what [three early symptoms you should look for, please review this article](#) from AL.com (Alabama.com).

NOTE: *Allegheny County is showing a 54% increase from the 7-day average just two weeks ago — currently an average of 386 cases a day.*

Eight Additional FREE Covid Tests per Household are Available Here: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.

There's no denying cases are on the rise across the country again — and though not as vigorous a rise as earlier in the year, a 40 – 50 % increase over two weeks is a cause for genuine concern (*just like in Allegheny county, see above*).


As a result, the Biden Administration recently authorized eight additional free rapid Coronavirus test kits for all U.S. households. Learn more about this initiative, the FDA's recent approval of boosters for children aged 5-11, and a new funding request heading toward Congress [in this article from FOX News](#).

**** A Healthy Reminder ****

COVID-19 Vaccines

If you do get COVID-19 after being vaccinated, you are more likely to have mild or no symptoms than if you hadn't been vaccinated.

No vaccine is 100% effective, but COVID-19 vaccines provide strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death.



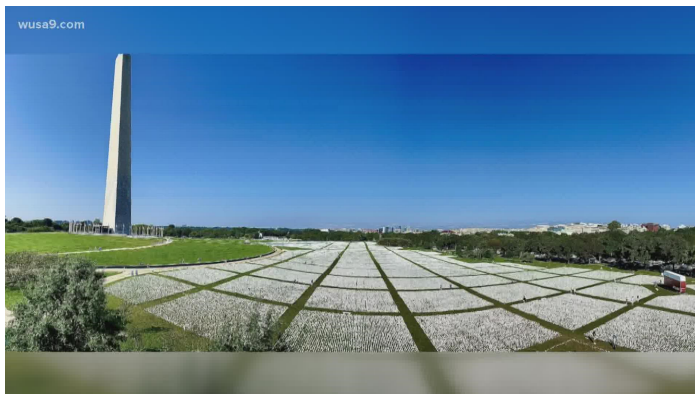
Find a Vaccine Provider Nearest You at <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

FORBES On-line Offers a Sobering Perspective on 1 Million COVID Deaths ...

And Counting.

Hard questions. Difficult Answers. And even tougher-to-stomach statistics and grim facts that put the devastating milestone of over one million Americans lost to COVID into a cruel perspective. Forbes interactive offers up an article that is part photo-essay and part hard news—and it doesn't shy away from hard truths.

America's world-leading death rate. The disparity in deaths based on political persuasion, age and ethnic background. America's best (and worst) states fighting against the coronavirus.



"Each Flag, A Death."

Please take a few moments to consider resetting the perception of a pandemic that is not yet finished with us — [click here to read the Forbes article](#) "What One Million Covid Deaths In The U.S. Looks Like."

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

[Click to comment via email.](#)