

PFT COVID Update 9-13-22: New Booster Knowledge - An Infodemic - Fighting Long Covid - Links

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

What to Know About The new Omicron-centric COVID Boosters.

(And why you should get one when eligible).

According to a rather [comprehensive article from PBS Newshour](#) ...

“Everyone should get the new COVID-19 booster ... even if you have gotten previous vaccinations or come down with COVID-19 during the omicron wave in late 2021 and early 2022.”

With community spread still high in over 80% of all counties, the general concern is that both COVID cases and deaths will rise precipitously as the change in seasons puts more Americans indoors for gatherings and events.

The recently approved new boosters are called “bivalent” boosters — meaning they’ve been formulated to create an immunoresponse to the primary original strain of Coronavirus, as well as to the more contagious strains that have emerged over the last 18 months due to the Omicron variant.

Omicron is the variant responsible for BA.4 and BA.5 — by far the most dominant strains in the US currently.

There’s a to-the-point explanation in the [article](#) as well as answers to a number of frequently asked questions to help guide your vaccine decision-making process. The national vaccine locator is among our links at the bottom.

What HIV & COVID Disinformation Has In Common.

In this sobering [article from the *New Pittsburgh Courier*](#), the challenge of misinformation (or *disinformation*) as it relates to a massive public health crisis is analyzed through a comparative lens that looks closely at the AIDS epidemic decades ago.

In fact, this article taught us a new word that we may well adopt moving forward in future Coronavirus updates:

“Infodemic.”

From the article:

The problem of misinformation has been so widespread that it has its own word: “[i nfodemic](#),” a portmanteau of “information” and “epidemic.”

Coined by journalist David Rothkopf during the [2003 SARS outbreak](#), it describes a situation where “a few facts, mixed with fear, speculation and rumor, are amplified and relayed swiftly worldwide by modern information technologies.”

Think of how far we’ve come since 2003 in our ability to instantly share information (*and misinformation*) with one another and large groups.

Think of how misinformation (*among other intentionally cruel things*) handcuffed a swift, forceful and united response to HIV back in the '80's.

This is definitely worth [the read](#).

Long Covid Is Real — And Now The Best Scientists Are On The Case.

Do fragments of the coronavirus persist in the tissues of some individuals? If so, how? And how might those remnants be responsible for the emerging condition called Long COVID? A group of scientists from leading academic centers are trying to find out.

"Long COVID is a complex, poorly understood, disabling condition that can last for many months after an initial COVID infection, leaving many of its sufferers unable to work. It affects nearly one in five American adults who have had COVID, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." -- [Reuters](#)

Currently there are **over 200 symptoms** associated with long COVID, inclusive of cognitive impairment and “brain fog”, headaches, frequent exhaustion, body aches and more. **

The effort is called the *Long Covid Research Initiative* — and includes scientists from Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of California, San Francisco, Yale University and the J. Craig Venter Institute.

[Click here to read the full Reuters article.](#)

** There are as yet no proven treatments for Long COVID — **affecting over 150 million people** worldwide.

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.

[CDC Monkeypox Information & Tracker \(NEW!\)](#)

[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](#) *(Warning App Deactivated 7-27-22)*

[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

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