

PFT COVID Update 10-12-22: Not Done Yet - Age 5 & Up Boosters - Winter Advisory - Links

Dan Evans <contact@pft400.org>

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To: Dan Evans <dan_evans@pft400.org>

CORONAVIRUS



Updates

Dear Dan

The Sun May Be Setting On The Pandemic As We Knew It.

But COVID Isn't Done By A Longshot.

While life for many has returned (*relatively speaking*) to normal, it might be tempting to believe that COVID itself is behind us. The ***Associated Press (AP)*** article below gently but firmly throws cold water on that idea, with simple questions, answers and deeper explanations about why COVID is likely here to stay.

In the United States, it's now true that widespread vaccination, Omicron-specific (bivalent) boosters and baseline natural immunity due to exposure to the virus have all had a positive effect on both case numbers and fatalities nationwide.

However, we are still losing 450 people a day to the Coronavirus (*with thousands more still being diagnosed daily*) — and to the immunocompromised and to high-risk groups in particular — COVID-19 is still bad news. The virus has demonstrated a frustrating ability to mutate and sidestep immunity from vaccination and past infection.

There are no signs of it slowing down in that respect — at least not in the short term. Keeping this virus in check is now a civic responsibility that lies within reach through up-to-date vaccination when we are eligible, and prudent masking and distancing behavior when spikes do occur within our own spheres of influence.

“We now have all of the capability to prevent, I believe, essentially all of those deaths. If people stay up to date on their vaccines, if people get treated if they have a breakthrough infection, we can make deaths from this virus vanishingly rare.” —

Dr. Ashish Jha, White House COVID-19 Coordinator.

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

Bivalent Boosters Cleared For Use In Children As Young As Age 5.

On Wednesday, the U.S. authorized updated COVID-19 boosters for children as young as 5, seeking to expand protection ahead of an anticipated winter wave of Coronavirus as Americans “come inside” for the holidays and fall/winter seasons.

The bivalent boosters that specifically target the Omicron variants as well as the original strain of coronavirus are not a cure, and do not provide total immunity — however they are designed to broaden immune defenses so that people are better protected against serious illness as a result of contracting COVID-19.

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

A New Winter Fight May Emerge This Year.

Healthcare experts warn of a potentially active and virulent flu season this year given the nation’s emergence from strict distancing protocols and event cancellations.

And when you consider how strained our healthcare system has become as a result of the sheer number of healthcare workers who have left or retired early from the field?

There’s a possibility hospitals and clinics could become overwhelmed with a combination of influenza, coronavirus and other respiratory illnesses. Staffing deficits mean there will be little wiggle room in accommodating any additional surges of patients, whether they're sick with Covid, flu or other illness.

The long and short of it is — please take care of yourself out there.

[Click here to read an interesting state of the healthcare union](#) 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.

[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)

[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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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](#). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please [click here](#).