

PFT COVID Update 2-1-23: New Schedule - Improved Data Tracker - Emergency's End - Links

CORONA IRUS

Updates

PFT COVID Update Moves To Intermittent Schedule.

The science of, and battle against, COVID-19 and all of its insipid variants will continue with vigor for the foreseeable future. But (thankfully) the **need for weekly or bi-monthly PFT Coronavirus updates has given way to an update once a month or so** — based on the urgency and rapidity of developing news.

Check out our first installment of 2023, with news about where we stand statistically in our battle with the Coronavirus, and what measures and benefits — legislatively — are soon drawing to a close; changes in costs, services and coverage that will affects millions of Americans.

CDC's Data Tracker Evolution Provides Granular Insights.

For three years now, the nation's (*and perhaps the entire world's*) largest COVID number-cruncher and qualified resource has been the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We've faithfully tracked and shared information from their COVID dashboard for years, and the latest evolution of this information in graphical and report form is by far the easiest to review and use yet.

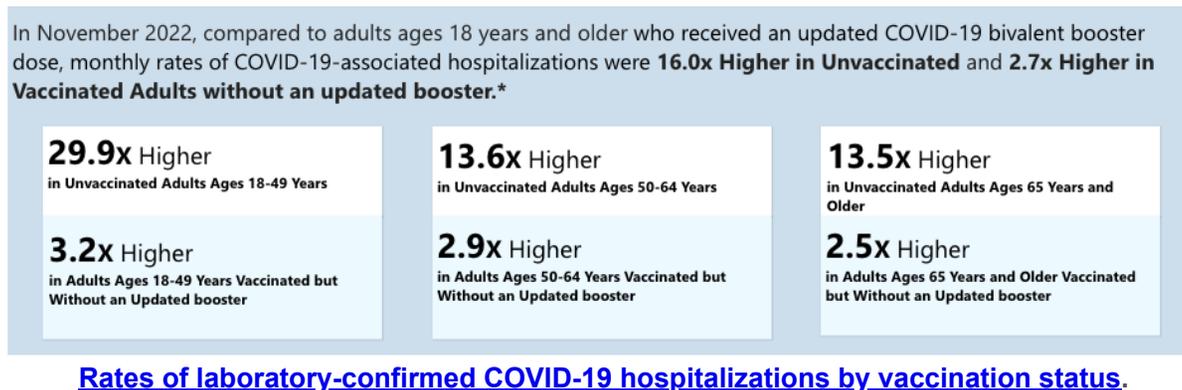
We couldn't possibly walk you through every feature or dataset — suffice it to say, if you **have a question about COVID-19, who it has affected, how it is treated, how does it spread or what's next?**

[The CDC Data Tracker is your answer.](#) *(Click to open)*

And while a series of improved vaccinations and antivirals have helped us turn the tide on the whole (*coupled with a fair measure of herd immunity*) — it's vital to know that we are still in a battle here: Currently we are still suffering **nearly 300K hospitalizations and over 3700 deaths per week.**

One of the reasons it remains so persistent (*beyond the alphabet soup of easily transmittable variants that sprang forth from Omicron*) is that we still lag behind in receiving what are called “updated” vaccinations — the “bivalent” booster shots designed specifically to help protect against COVID-19 variants.

Need support for the above assertion? Check out this startling fact graphic from the CDC's [Vaccine Effectiveness and Breakthrough Surveillance](#) page.



The COVID Public Health Emergency Will Expire On May 11, 2023. What You Need To Know.

The Biden Administration has announced the national Covid **emergency declaration will expire on May 11, 2023** (*barring an unforeseen surprise circumstance with the virus*).

For three years, Americans have benefitted from government support in the form of cash payments, rent and loan payment relief, universal access to free testing and vaccines, allowances for special business loans, pandemic-related funding and more.

And while the administration is trying to give enough advance time for people to prepare, the truth is that some of the benefits lost are going to make it harder for many Americans to make ends meet.

Click the link to read an excellent [article from the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review about what stays and what goes](#) when this emergency declaration sunsets. See how this affects wide-ranging programs and issues such as:

Medicaid
Student Loans
Immigration
Food Assistance
Telehealth
State Covid Emergencies
Hospital Reimbursements
And more.

Want to know more, including more of the political and personal implications of ending the public health emergency? [Check out this article from CNN.](#)

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)*

[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 Monthly as of 2023 ****

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.](#)