

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 4, 2021**

## **Department of Health Provides Update on COVID-19: More Than 2.6 Million Vaccinations to Date**

*3,028 New Cases, 1,648 Patients Hospitalized and 357 Patients in the Intensive Care Unit*

**Harrisburg, PA** - The Pennsylvania Department of Health today confirmed as of 12:00 a.m., March 4, there were 3,028 additional positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the statewide total to 941,439.

There are 1,648 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. Of that number, 357 patients are in the intensive care unit with COVID-19. Most of the patients hospitalized are ages 65 or older, and most of the deaths have occurred in patients 65 or older. More data is available [here](#).

The trend in the 14-day moving average number of hospitalized patients per day is about 4,200 lower than it was at the peak on December 25, 2020. However, the current 14-day average is now also below what it was at the height of the spring peak on May 3, 2020.

Statewide percent positivity for the week of February 19 – February 25 stood at 6.3%.

The most accurate [daily data is available on the website](#), with [archived data also available](#).

As of 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, there were 50 new deaths identified by the Pennsylvania death registry, reported for a total of 24,219 deaths attributed to COVID-19. County-specific information and a statewide map are available on the [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#).

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution**

Pennsylvania hospitals began receiving shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine the week of Dec. 14 and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine the week of Dec. 21. The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine was first allocated to Pennsylvania the week of March 1, and the commonwealth is using it for a special initiative involving educators. Vaccination numbers for Pennsylvania do not include Philadelphia, which is its own jurisdiction, or federal facilities, which are working directly with the federal government.

- This week, a total of 3,699,180 doses will have been allocated through March 6:
  - 336,870 first/single doses will have been allocated this week.

- 189,410 second doses will have been allocated this week.
- To date, of the 3,699,180 doses allocated through March 6, we have administered 2,666,598 doses total through March 3:
  - First/single doses, 85 percent (1,840,397 administered of 2,172,935 allocated)
  - Second doses, 54 percent (826,201 administered of 1,526,245 allocated)

Mask-wearing is required in all businesses and whenever leaving home, even if fully vaccinated. Consistent mask-wearing is critical to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

There are 112,743 individuals who have a positive viral antigen test and are considered probable cases and 636 individuals who have a positive serology test and either COVID-19 symptoms or a high-risk exposure.

There are 3,915,271 individuals who have tested negative to date.

In licensed nursing and personal care homes, there are 67,544 resident cases of COVID-19, and 13,291 cases among employees, for a total of 80,835 at 1,562 distinct facilities in all 67 counties. Out of total deaths reported to PA-NEDSS, 12,565 have occurred in residents from nursing or personal care facilities. A county breakdown can be found [here](#). Note that the number of deaths reported to NEDSS is not exactly the same as the COVID-19 related deaths reported by the death registry. The number of deaths among nursing and personal care home residents and employees is taken from the PA-NEDSS death data, as this information is not available in the death registry data.

Approximately 25,032 of our total cases are among health care workers.

### **Statewide – The Wolf Administration has since noon, Mar. 3:**

- [Signed a bill preparing National Guard to assist with COVID vaccination](#) effort.
- Provided update on [Department of State enforcement](#) actions.
- Provided update on [Department of Agriculture enforcement](#) actions.

**While vaccine supply from the federal government remains limited, the Department of Health is working to ensure the vaccine is provided in a way that is ethical, equitable and efficient. To keep Pennsylvanians informed about vaccination efforts:**

- The [Your Turn](#) tool provides a way to register to be alerted when it's your turn to be vaccinated.
- A [commonwealth COVID-19 vaccination guide](#) explains the current process for getting one. Pennsylvanians with questions about the vaccination process can call the Department of Health hotline at 1-877-724-3258.
- [Vaccine provider map](#) to find a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.

- All of the locations that received vaccine and how much they have received can be found on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution webpage](#).
- [Vaccine dashboard data](#) can also be found on the website to find more information on the doses administered and showcase demographic information.
- Pennsylvanians can provide feedback on the Pennsylvania COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan by clicking on the Plan Feedback Form square under Popular Vaccine Topics [here](#).
- Frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

**The Wolf Administration stresses the role Pennsylvanians play in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19:**

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently.
- Stay home to avoid spreading COVID-19, especially if you are unwell.
- If you must go out, you are required to wear a mask when in a business or where it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing.
- Download the COVID Alert PA app and make your phone part of the fight. The free app can be found in the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#) by searching for “covid alert pa”.

**Updated Coronavirus Links: Press Releases, State Lab Photos, Graphics**

- [Daily COVID-19 Report](#)
- [Press releases regarding coronavirus](#)
- [Latest information on the coronavirus](#)
- [Photos of the state's lab in Exton](#) (for download and use)
- [Coronavirus and preparedness graphics](#) (located at the bottom of the page)
- [Community preparedness and procedures materials](#)