

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2021

Department of Health Provides Update on COVID-19: More Than 3.8 Million Vaccinations to Date, More than 1.3 Million Pennsylvanians Fully Vaccinated

3,004 New Cases, 1,489 Patients Hospitalized and 280 Patients in the Intensive Care Unit

Harrisburg, PA - The Pennsylvania Department of Health today confirmed as of 12:00 a.m., March 17, that there were 3,004 additional positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the statewide total to 973,721.

There are 1,489 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. Of that number, 280 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 4,500 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 March 5 – March 11 stood at 5.7%.

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

As of 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, there were 37 new deaths identified by the Pennsylvania death registry, reported for a total of 24,689 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.

[Vaccine highlights](#)

- More than 3.8 million doses of vaccine administered across the state -- more vaccine administered than 44 other states.
- More than 1.3 million people fully vaccinated – with a seven-day moving average of 80,000 people per day receiving vaccinations.
- This week, a total of 4,699,560 doses will have been allocated through March 20:
 - 278,670 first/single doses will have been allocated this week.
 - 242,270 second doses will have been allocated this week.
- To date, of the 4,699,560 doses allocated through March 20, we have administered 3,840,896 doses total through March 16:
 - First/single doses, 95 percent (2,559,813 administered of 2,705,155 allocated)
 - Second doses, 64 percent (1,281,068 administered of 1,994,405 allocated)

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

There are 118,580 individuals who have a positive viral antigen test and are considered probable cases and 640 individuals who have a positive serology test and either COVID-19 symptoms or a high-risk exposure.

There are 4,018,759 individuals who have tested negative to date.

In licensed nursing and personal care homes, there are 68,659 resident cases of COVID-19, and 13,933 cases among employees, for a total of 82,592 at 1,561 distinct facilities in all 67 counties. Out of total deaths reported to PA-NEDSS, 12,762 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 25,844 of our total cases are among health care workers.

Statewide - The Wolf Administration has since noon, Mar. 16:

- Provided latest [CMU metrics report](#).
- Provided updated data on the [Early Warning Monitoring Dashboard](#).
- Provided latest enforcement data from the [Department of State](#).

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](#)