

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 23, 2021**

## **Department of Health Provides Update on COVID-19: More Than 4.4 Million Vaccinations to Date**

*3,515 New Cases, 1,577 Patients Hospitalized and 335 Patients in the Intensive Care Unit*

**Harrisburg, PA** - The Pennsylvania Department of Health today confirmed as of 12:00 a.m., March 23, there were 3,515 additional positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the statewide total to 991,950.

There are 1,577 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. Of that number, 335 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 4,600 lower than it was at the peak on December 25, 2020. The current 14-day average is also below what it was at the height of the spring peak on May 3, 2020. However, the decrease in hospitalized patients has stalled.

Statewide percent positivity for the week of March 12 – March 18 stood at 6.5%.

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

As of 11:59 p.m. Monday, March 22, there were 39 new deaths identified by the Pennsylvania death registry, reported for a total of 24,828 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](#)

- Vaccine providers have administered 4,416,744 total vaccine doses as of Tuesday, March 23.
  - 1,567,116 people are fully vaccinated; with a seven-day moving average of more than 85,500 people per day receiving vaccinations.
  - 2,955,988 people are partially vaccinated, meaning they have received one dose of a two-dose vaccine
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- This week, a total of 5,235,140 doses will have been allocated through March 27:
    - 281,010 first/single doses will have been allocated this week.
    - 253,970 second doses will have been allocated this week.
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- To date, of the 5,235,140 doses allocated through March 27, we have administered 4,416,744 doses total through March 22:
    - First/single doses, 99 percent (2,955,988 administered of 2,986,765 allocated)
    - Second doses, 65 percent (1,460,735 administered of 2,248,375 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 122,438 individuals who have a positive viral antigen test and are considered probable cases and 639 individuals who have a positive serology test and either COVID-19 symptoms or a high-risk exposure.

There are 4,065,819 individuals who have tested negative to date.

In licensed nursing and personal care homes, there are 68,928 resident cases of COVID-19, and 14,105 cases among employees, for a total of 83,033 at 1,567 distinct facilities in all 67 counties. Out of total deaths reported to PA-NEDSS, 12,843 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 26,144 of our total cases are among health care workers.

**Statewide – The Wolf Administration has since noon, Mar. 22:**

- Reached a 100,000 milestone for teacher and school staff vaccinations.
- Provided a [Early Warning Monitoring dashboard update](#).
- Provided the latest [Pennsylvania State Police enforcement data](#).
- [Recognized heroic work of charitable food networks](#).

**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](#)