

THIS CALL IS BEING RECORDED

# DHS Provider Briefings

Thursday 1/14/21

**Briefings occur weekly, on Thursdays, at 4:30 PM**



# Agenda

- Announcements
- Health metrics
- Vaccine information
- Vaccine guidance
- Program updates



# COVID-19 Test Site in McKeesport

A graphic for the McKeesport COVID-19 Drive Thru Testing Site. It features a dark blue background with the text 'McKeesport COVID-19 Drive Thru Testing Site' in white and yellow. Below the text is an illustration of a white car at a drive-thru testing station. A sign on the left says 'COVID-19 TESTING HERE' with a right-pointing arrow and 'DRIVE-THRU' below it. A hand in a blue glove is shown holding a biohazard bag containing a COVID-19 test kit. At the bottom, a red banner contains white text: 'McKeesport Site will be closed on 1/18 in observance of Martin Luther King Day'.

McKeesport  
**COVID-19**  
Drive Thru Testing Site

COVID-19 TESTING HERE →  
DRIVE-THRU

BIOHAZARD  
COVID-19

**McKeesport Site will be closed on 1/18 in observance of Martin Luther King Day**

- Address: 455 Industry Road, McKeesport
- Regular hours: Monday – Saturday 9am- 5pm
- Free COVID-19 Testing for anyone over 3 years old.
- Testing by **Appointment Only**. Pre-register online or via phone at 412-209-2262.
- This is a drive-thru site with self-administered tests. No prescription or referral needed.
- Insurance billing information will be collected but test will still be free if someone does not have insurance or their insurance does not cover cost
- **If you are unable to drive, contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774 for additional options & resources.**
- Registration and testing information available at [bit.ly/McKeesportCOVIDTestSite](https://bit.ly/McKeesportCOVIDTestSite)

# COVID-19



## Allegheny County Mobile Testing Sites

**Friday, Jan 15, 9am-12pm**

City of Clairton Municipal Building  
551 Ravensburg Blvd, Clairton, PA 15025

Pre-registration link:  
<https://curative.com/sites/15396/walkup>

**Friday, Jan 15, 1pm-4pm**

St. Paul AME Church  
400 Orchard Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Pre-registration link:  
<https://curative.com/sites/15426/walkup>

## Squirrel Hill Health Center Mobile Testing Site

**Friday, Jan 15, 12:30pm - 3:30**

Millvale Community Center  
416 Lincoln Ave Millvale, PA 15209

Pre-registration link:  
<http://alleghenyCovidtesting.com>

Walk-ins welcomed  
Insurance not required. However, if you have insurance that will cover the cost, your insurance will be billed



# Active Solicitations

## **RFP for Family-Centered Service Coordination for Families Involved with Child Welfare and Mental Health Services**

- Proposals due Tuesday, February 9
- Pre-proposal conference held via Teams earlier today; recording will be posted on Solicitations site

## **RFP for Foster Care Agencies**

- Proposals due Wednesday, February 10
- Optional pre-proposal conference via Teams **tomorrow**, January 15, at 1 pm (details in RFP)

[Link](#) to DHS Solicitations

# LEARN MORE ABOUT INCARCERATED WOMEN - JOIN REMOTE TRAININGS OFFERED BY A CHILD'S PLACE PA

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- ✘ Locked Out Part I: Issues Impacting Incarcerated Women, Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- ✘ Locked Out Part II: Issues Impacting Incarcerated Women, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- ✘ Part III Human Trafficking, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021: 1:30-3:00 pm
- ✘ Choose any you like. Please register prior to session. Continuing education credits available. Contact Vicki Sirockman at 422-728-8287 or [vsirockman@achildsplacepa.org](mailto:vsirockman@achildsplacepa.org).



# Policy & Legislative Update – Federal & State

- Incoming Senate Finance Committee Chair Bernie Sanders working with Biden administration on new multitrillion-dollar stimulus package for first 100 days. Likely to include:
  - another round of stimulus checks
  - increases to size of the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit
  - increases to unemployment insurance benefits
  - funding for schools and local governments
  - significant investments in vaccine deployment, testing and contact tracing
- PA General Assembly experiencing intense partisanship
  - Allegheny County State Senator Jim Brewster was sworn in yesterday morning after Republican leadership's refusal to seat him until a Federal lawsuit was resolved, despite earlier State certification of his win
  - Many Democrats are calling for the resignation of State Sen. Doug Mastriano due to his paying to bus protestors to the rally that lead to the Capitol attack on January 6th, as well as his presence at that event

# Policy & Legislative Update – State

- Four possible constitutional amendments passed out of the State House Committees yesterday along almost exclusively party lines, all of which have a good chance of being on the May primary ballot:
  - HB 38 – Creates judicial electoral districts for all appellate courts (Superior, Commonwealth, Supreme), which will be drawn by the General Assembly
  - HB 14 – Opens two-year window removing statute of limitations on bringing civil sex abuse suits
  - HB 55 – Limits Governor's disaster declarations to 21 days and requires General Assembly approval in order to extend the declaration past 21 days. Clarifies that Gov cannot veto General Assembly on this
  - HB 55 – Enshrines specific protections against discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity into the state's Declaration of Rights (both changes were put in one bill in an attempt to garner bipartisan support)
    - If these resolutions are passed by the full House and the Senate in enough time before May's election, they will appear as referendum questions on primary ballot
    - Governor cannot veto any step of this process

# Recent Federal Stimulus -- Key Supports for Individuals

- **Economic Impact Payments**
  - One-time \$600 payments to individuals (full payment for AGI up to \$75k, reduced amount until \$87k). \$600 for dependents. Most eligible people will get payments automatically; other eligible individuals will need to file 2020 tax returns
  - For more information: IRS [FAQ](#) and [check payment status](#)
- **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**
  - \$25 billion nationwide to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Eviction moratorium extension through January 31st
  - Allegheny County Rental Assistance website for updates: <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>
- **SNAP benefit increase and easier access for college students** (information from USDA)
  - Provides a 15% increase in SNAP benefits for 6 months (January 1 - June 30, 2021) for all SNAP participants
  - Temporarily waives strict work and eligibility requirements for college students who are eligible for federal or state-funded work study programs during the regular school year, or have no expected family contribution
  - For more information: [SNAP eligibility information from USDA](#)
- **Flexibility to leverage Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)**
  - Temporary ability for individuals to use earned income level from 2019 on 2020 tax returns to help workers who experienced lower wages in 2020 get a larger refund, consistent with the amount during a normal year
- **Pell Grant**
  - Increase of the maximum award by \$150
  - Reinstates eligibility for students who are incarcerated

# Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Update

CRF funding for the initiatives ended 12/30/20

Critical initiatives continue

Cleaning sites with a virus exposure

Community Learning Hubs

Health of the Network

*Hazard Pay and Resource Family Payments*

Safe Haven Hotel

Teen and Family Healing Center

United Way Food and Emergency Supports

All initiatives are part of a comprehensive planning process

New targeted COVID Stimulus dollars coming

# Human Services Planning: Request for Input

We need to identify priorities for helping people in Allegheny County

Priorities could include:

- Covid-response

- Emerging needs

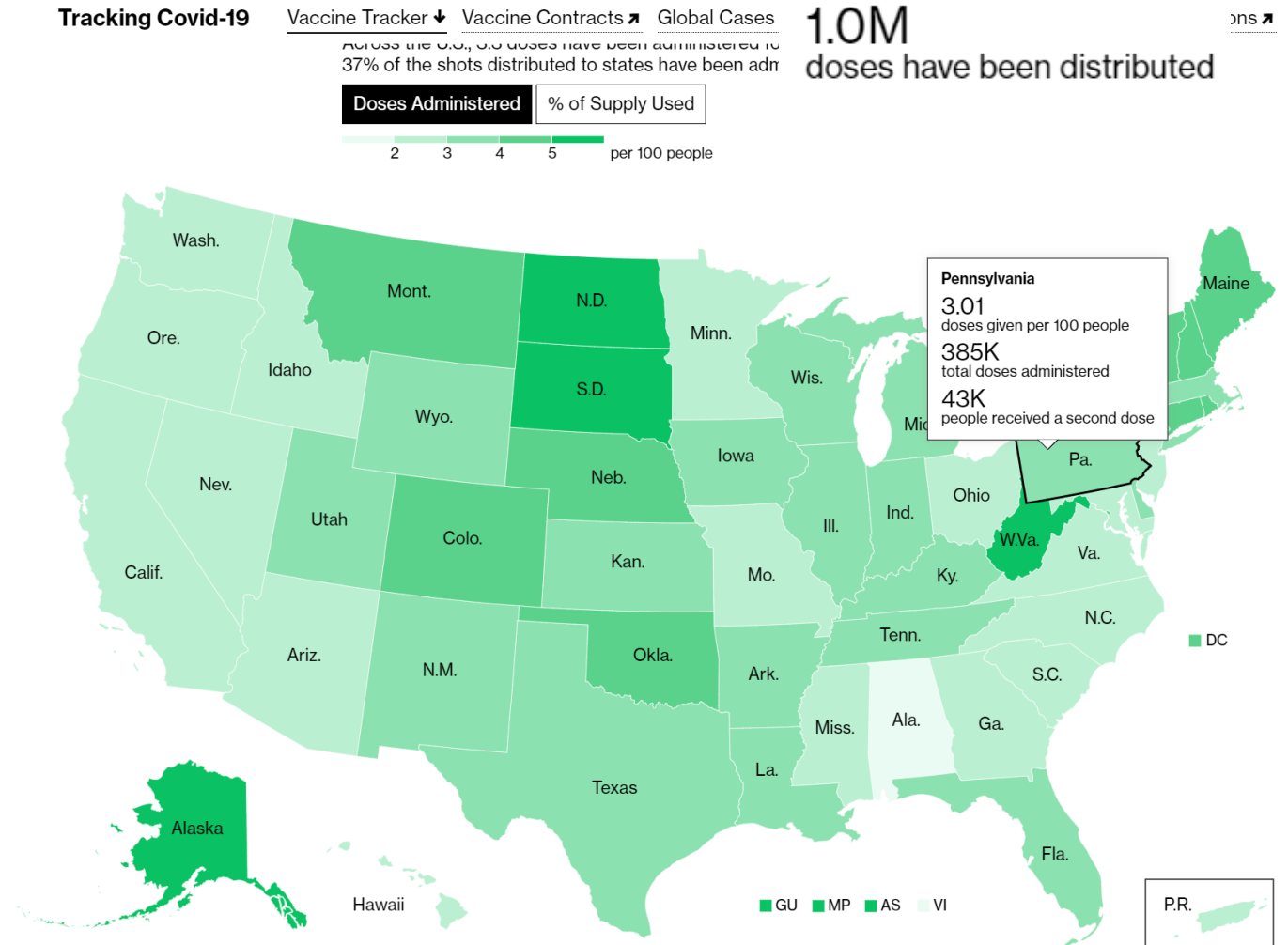
- Changes to improve the services we provide (systems, practice)

Please use this form to provide DHS with your input by Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ej0n4MvksU6fclu6FvuWjf0bRgIOiVVOt3FMeSJYKY1UME1TTIpFMDIZWUZBQ0NVVkeE3RzFIWjBFOC4u>

# Vaccine Tracking

- 10.8 million doses administered to date in U.S.
  - 3.3 doses have been administered for every 100 people
- Pennsylvania: 385,000 doses administered
  - 3% of people with at least one dose
  - 43K have received a second dose
  - 38% of doses have been administered





# Allegheny County

Allegheny County has administered the second largest number of vaccines in the state, after Philadelphia.

- Please note: Philadelphia is not utilizing the state system and is reporting out of their local system.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>



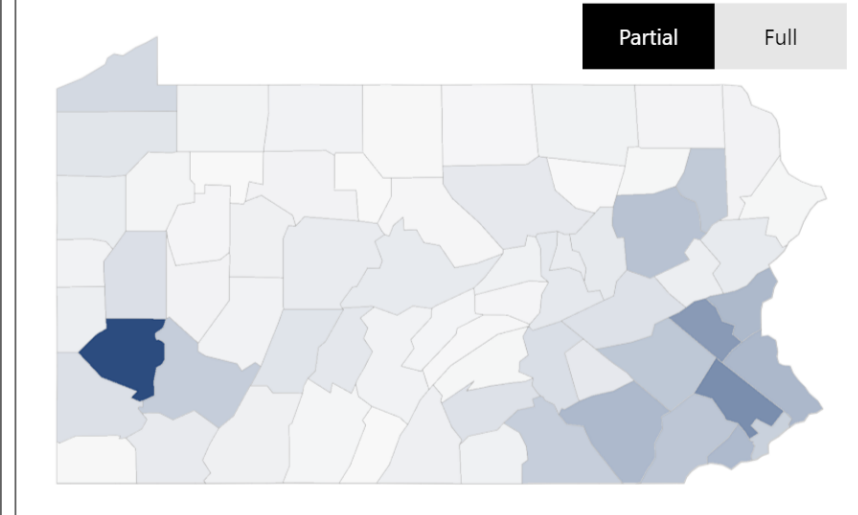
## COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

Updated on 1/14/2021

### Number of Vaccinations Administered

County	Partial	Full
Adams	1,558	200
Allegheny	33,990	5,959
Armstrong	1,231	177
Beaver	2,062	306
Bedford	773	59
Berks	9,657	1,112
Blair	3,511	689
Bradford	1,429	334
Bucks	12,685	3,004
Butler	4,943	1,011
Cambria	4,133	770
Cameron	132	8
Carbon	2,184	237
Centre	2,942	1,117
Chester	9,944	1,206
Clarion	858	220
Clearfield	2,678	731
Clinton	687	122
Columbia	3,164	374
Crawford	3,936	1,191
Cumberland	4,703	463
Dauphin	5,255	760
Delaware	12,343	1,701
<b>Total</b>	<b>321,404</b>	<b>52,125</b>

### Number of Partial Vaccinations Administered, by County

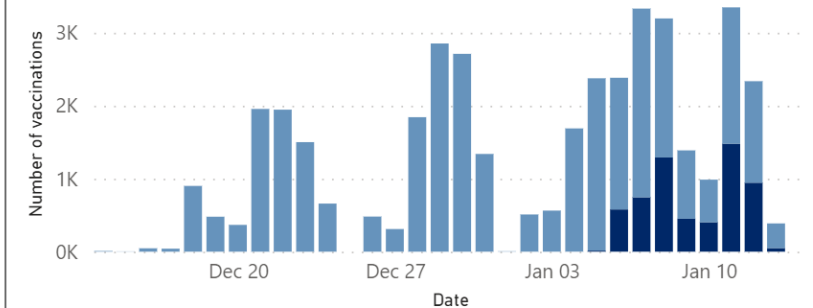


### County/State

Allegheny

### Number of Vaccinations Administered, by Date

● Number of full vaccinations ● Number of partial vaccinations

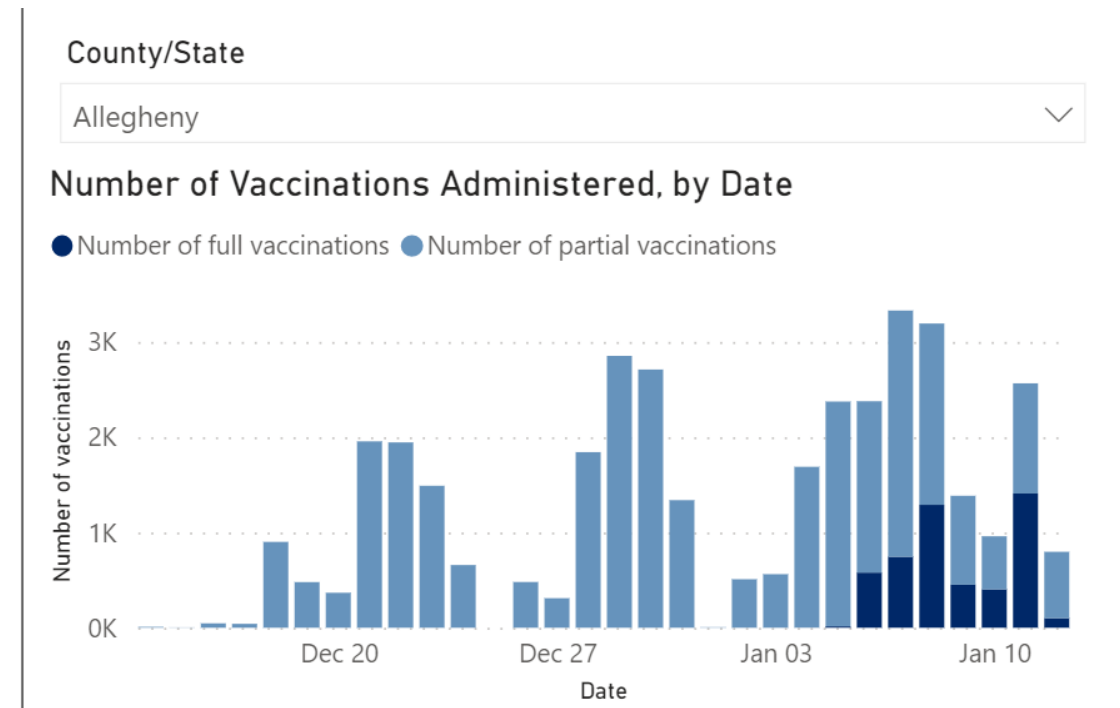
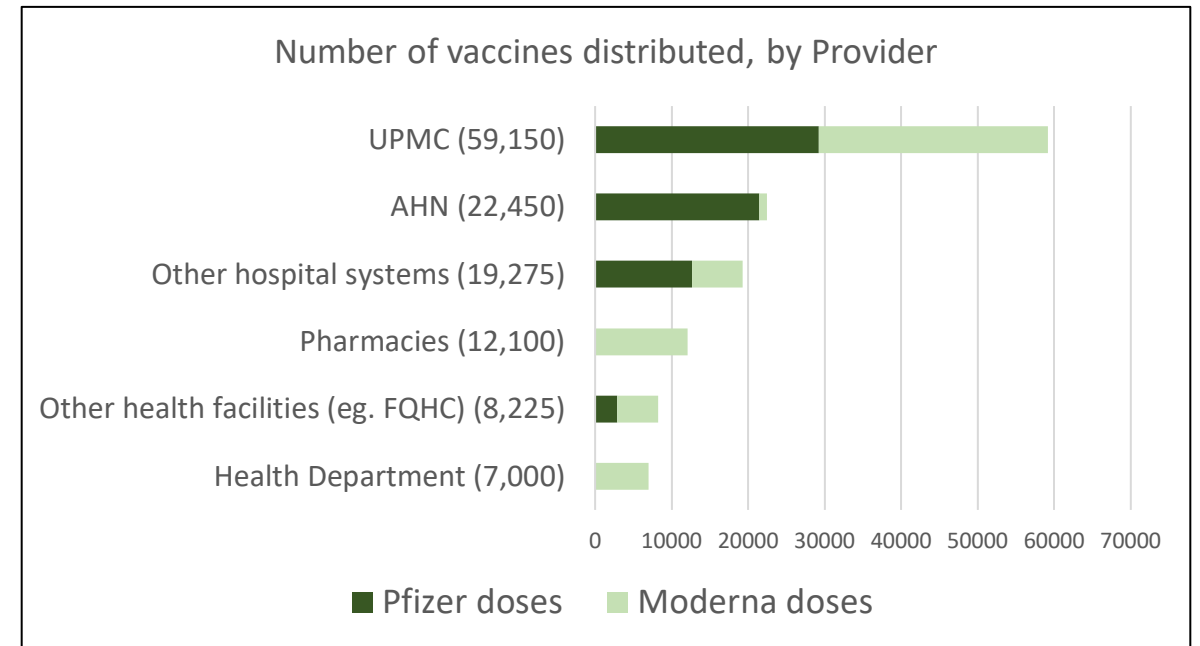


# Allegheny County

Through 1/13/2021:

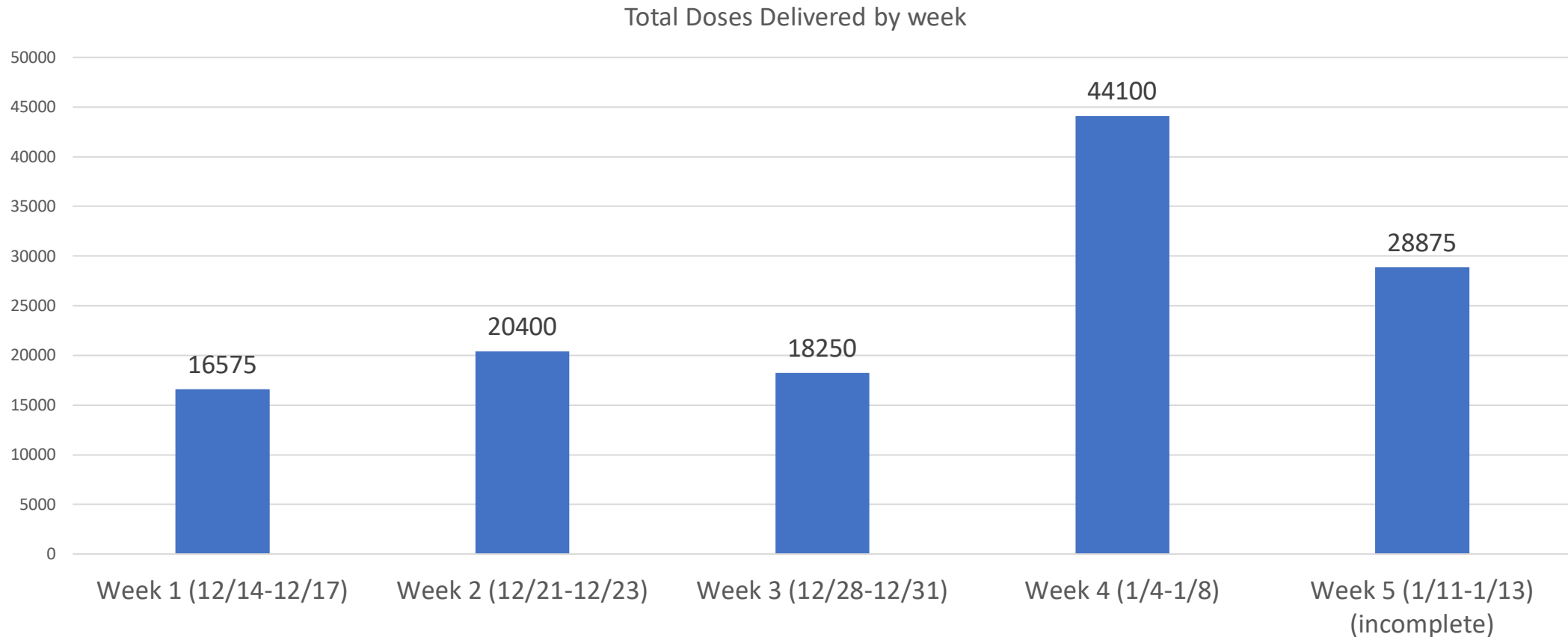
- 128,200 vaccines have been distributed to Allegheny County
- 29% (32,187 partial vaccines and 4,993 full vaccinations) have been administered
- The Health Department has received 5% (7,000) of total vaccines

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>



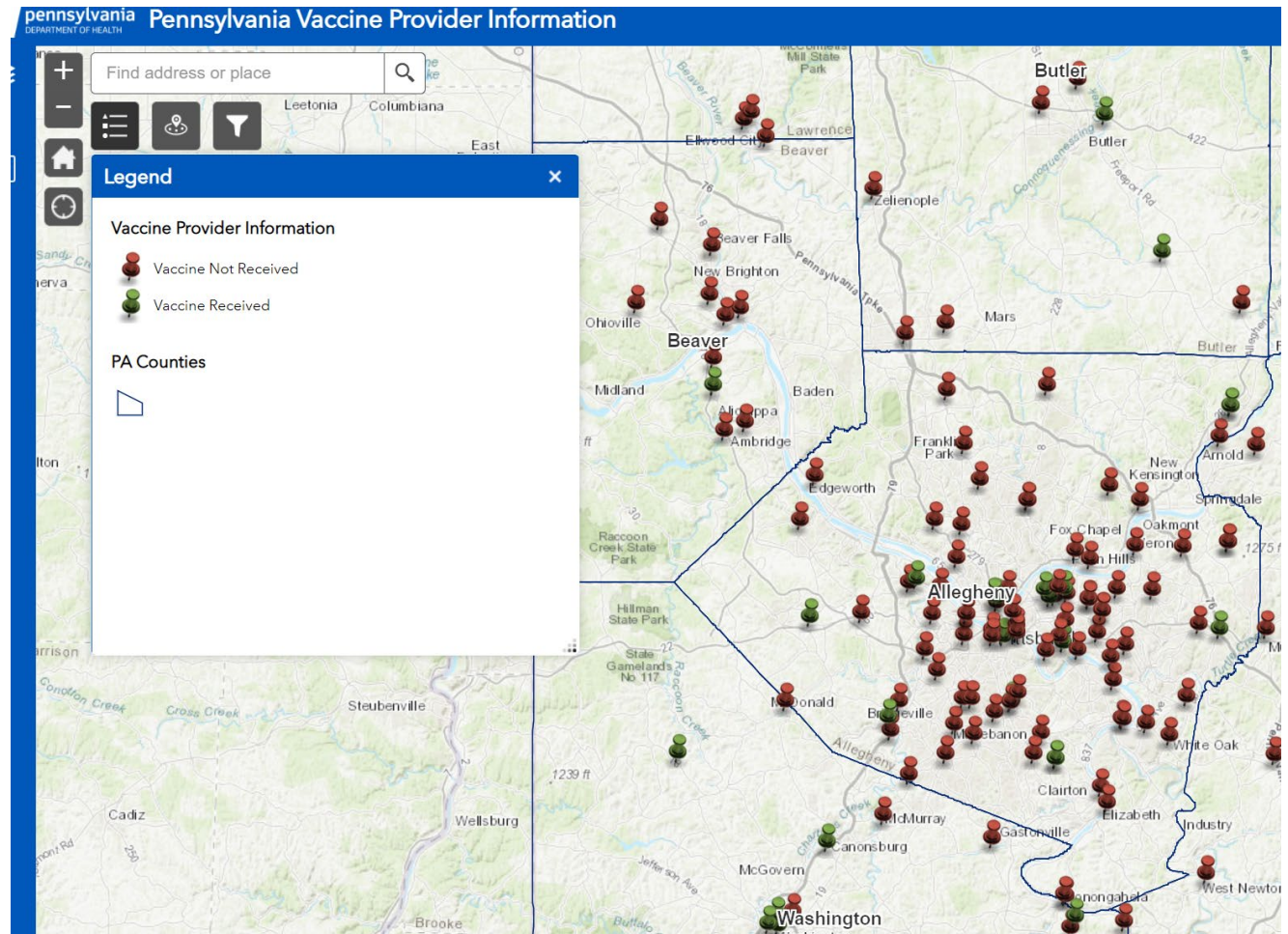
# Allegheny County: Doses distributed by week

- Week 4 saw a large increase in doses distributed to the county.



# Vaccine Provider locations

- The Department of Health recently released a map of vaccine providers that can administer a COVID-19 vaccine to anyone covered by Phase 1A.
- Anyone covered under Phase 1A that has not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine can contact any of these providers to check availability and schedule their vaccination, but we encourage providers to contact sites and coordinate for their employees who are eligible.
- Employees should be prepared to show proof of employment.
- This map is being updated regularly, so please keep checking for new locations with vaccine supply and available appointments.



<https://padoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0ea7864ea98d423daa3f1711e3cba09e>

# Vaccine distribution guidelines (PA based on CDC guidelines)

Phase 1A (CURRENT)	Phase 1B	Phase 1C	Phase 2
<p>- Healthcare workers and LTCR</p> <p><b>New:</b></p> <p>- <b>Includes ombudsmen, Older Adult Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and Child Protective Services staff that are required to do on-site assessments in hospitals and 1A long-term care facilities</b></p>	<p>- <b>NEW: All adults aged 75 and older</b></p> <p>- <b>Residents of congregate care facilities</b></p> <p>- Front-line essential workers including, law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, emergency services personnel, corrections officers and <b>other staff of non-1A congregate care settings</b>, public transit workers, grocery store workers, education workers, manufacturing workers, and childcare workers.</p>	<p>- Adults aged 65-74, Adults 18-64 with a serious underlying condition</p> <p>- <b>Essential workers</b> in critical industries not covered under 1B, including information technology, energy, food service, and <b>federal/state/county/local government.</b></p>	<p>Any individual over the age of 16</p> <p><i>Note that at this time, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for those age 16 and 17.</i></p>

CDC defines frontline and essential workers as those “who perform duties across critical...sectors and...likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2...because their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers”.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

# Vaccine distribution process (so far)

- Healthcare facilities
  - UPMC, AHN, Forbes, Jefferson Regional, St. Clair, Heritage Valley, St. Margaret all received doses to vaccinate their staff
- Pharmacies
  - Walgreens/CVS have contract to go into long-term care facilities to vaccinate residents and staff (through Federal Pharmacy Partnership)
  - Giant Eagle will begin to vaccinate 1A staff by end of January (includes inpatient BH staff and ID community group homes)
  - Small pharmacies have received limited doses and are working to vaccinate other 1A staff (e.g., dentists)
- Health Department opened vaccination clinic in Monroeville on 1/6/2021 – Ability to vaccinate 300-400 people/day
  - Week of January 18<sup>th</sup> - Will expand hours and begin vaccinations on Saturday

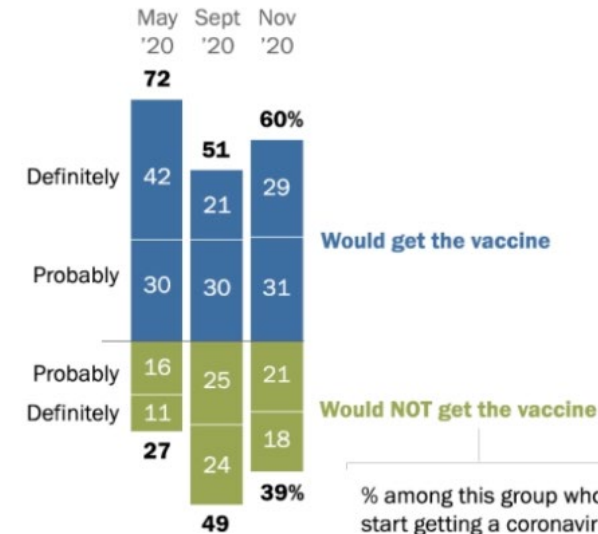


# Some challenges (here and nationally)

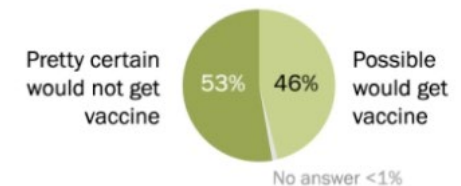
- Unknown supply at the state/local level (and when it might arrive)
- Some jurisdictions have reported low rates of acceptance, even among health care and long-term care staff

## Majority of Americans now say they would get a vaccine for the coronavirus

% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they ...



% among this group who say once others start getting a coronavirus vaccine and there is more information ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# How is DHS helping

- Dedicated personnel to help in the planning efforts. Includes:
  - Staff working to enumerate DHS staff, provider staff and clients by priority category and advocate for our staff and clients.
  - Staff working to identify and coordinate DHS facilities as vaccination sites.
- DHS staff helping to staff the county clinic (currently in Monroeville)
- DHS is setting up closed PODs for some staff and providers as they become eligible
- Working to provide guidance to provider community
- Helping to develop communication/information for specific communities (e.g., immigrant/refugee groups)



# DHS Guidance to Providers

## **Employee Covid-19 Vaccination Guidance**

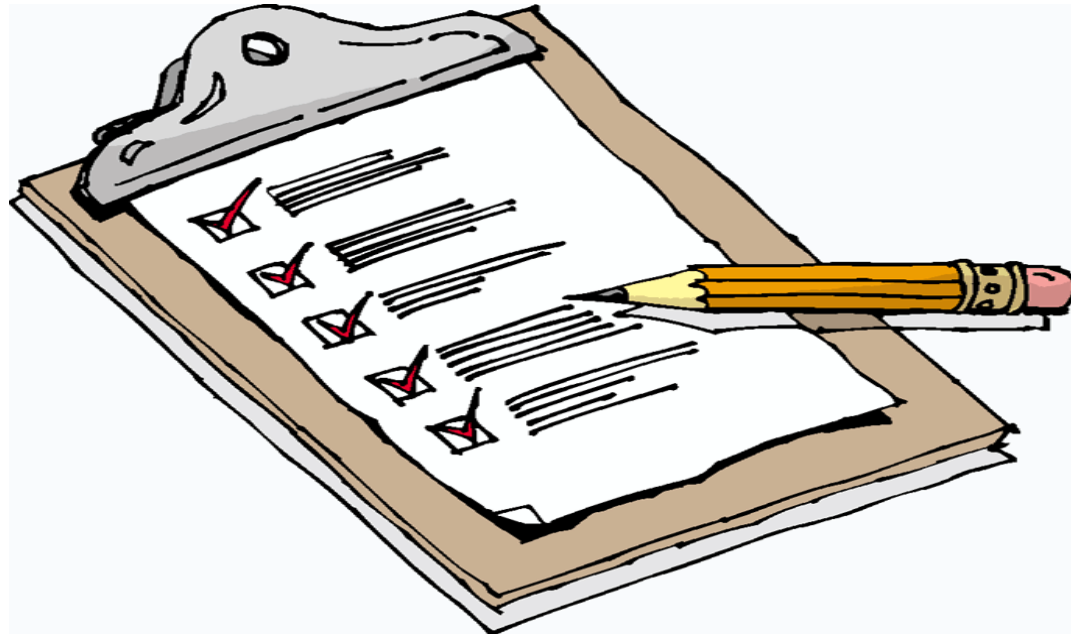


# Context

- DHS has drafted guidance to our provider community that begins to lay out **DHS' vision** for the critical **role that providers can play** in supporting essential workers to get vaccinated.
- Many DHS providers have **staff** that have worked in-person throughout the pandemic to ensure delivery of essential services to our communities and **are at higher risk** of infection and transmission.
- We're in early days of this effort, with the federal and state guidance **constantly changing**. We will continue to provide updates and clarity as it becomes available.

# DHS Guidance to Providers on Employee Vaccination

- As ACHD moves into Phase 1b when vaccine supply increases, DHS encourages providers to make a plan **for communicating to employees the critical importance of getting vaccinated.**



# Providers' communications to employees re: vaccines

We suggest that providers' Covid-19 vaccine communication efforts to employees incorporate several considerations:

- 1) Frontline essential service workers' **early priority** to get vaccinated per the state and CDC guidance
- 2) A protocol that employees can follow to request an excuse from missed worktime that might be reasonably needed to get vaccinated;
- 3) The **benefits of getting vaccinated**, per [relevant CDC guidance](#)

# Providers' communications to employees re: vaccines

- 4) [Resources](#) for learning about the safety of Covid-19 vaccines;
- 5) Contact information to Allegheny County Health Department's resource for providing up-to-date information about vaccination in Allegheny County (<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx>).
- 6) Messaging about the importance of wearing masks and social distancing even after employees get vaccinated.



# Sharing Best Practices

As these efforts unfold and as more vaccine supply becomes available, if you are having particular success in having your teams get vaccinated, we want to hear from you and learn from you!

# DHS Guidance to Providers on Employee Vaccination – mandatory policies

- DHS is not requiring providers to implement a mandatory employee vaccination policy.
- But recent EEOC guidance does address this

# Employers' mandatory vaccination policies **are** allowable – with caveats

- In Dec 2019, EEOC published guidance stating that employers have the auth to mandate vaccination among employees
  - This authority aligns with the portion of the ADA that allows an employer to require that an individual shall not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of individuals in the workplace.
  - In re to Covid-19, the EEOC said that public health authorities' finding of significant community spread supports the idea that unvaccinated employees do pose a direct threat to workplace safety.
- Employers have the authority to **request documentation of vaccination** - to track vaccination prevalence in their workplace (but may not ask for any medical information)



# Mandatory policies – required exemptions

- Employers must allow exemptions to employees who cannot get vaccinated due to a disability, a contraindication, or a sincerely held religious belief
- Generally, employers may not terminate employees that cannot get vaccinated
  - Must find a reasonable accommodation that mitigates the health risk of the unvaccinated employee

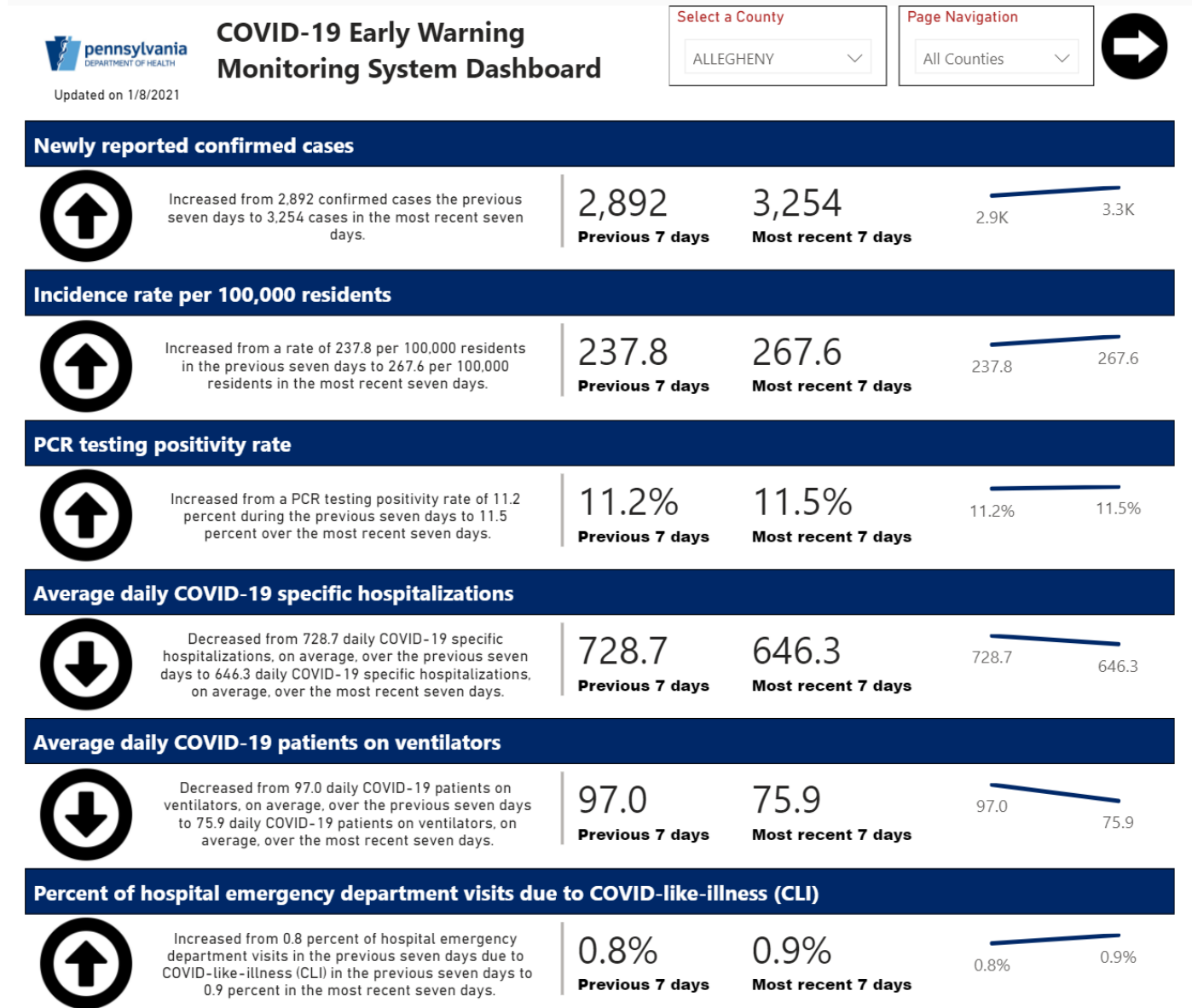
# DHS Vaccine Guidance - topline

- In our view, providers in the greater DHS network can play a pivotal role in supporting high vaccination rates among our frontline essential workforce
- Providers are strongly encouraged to develop a communications plan and to affirmatively message to employees the importance of getting vaccinated
- We're in the early days of this effort
  - We expect to provide additional vaccination resources and information as we go
  - We are interested in creating virtual meeting spaces for provider staff to engage and interact in person with leaders who can talk about Covid-19 vaccines and the benefits of them

# PA State Metrics

- Compares this week (January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 7<sup>th</sup>) to previous week (December 25<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>th</sup>). Data is updated every Friday.

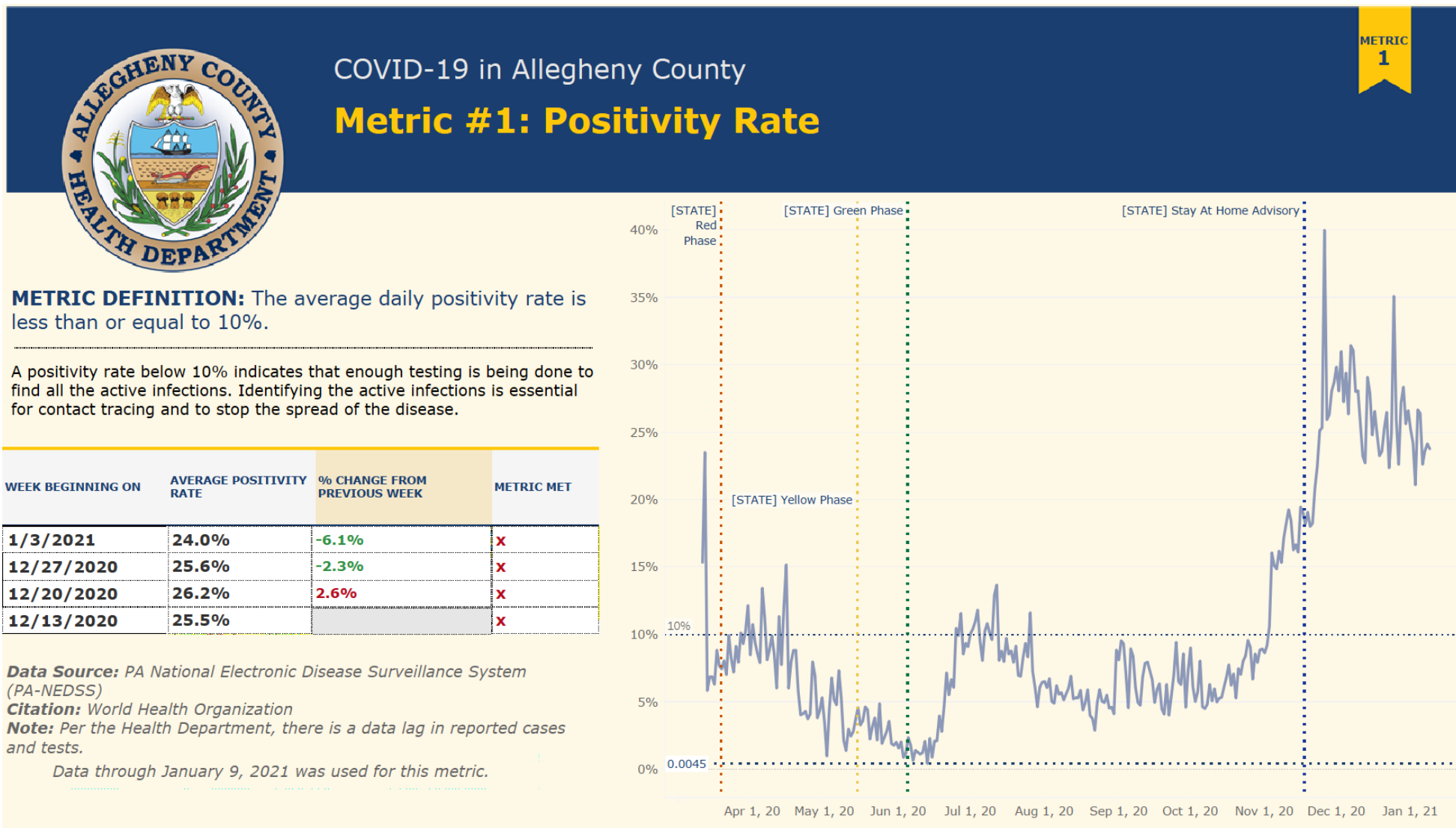
	% change from last week to this week
Newly reported cases	13%
Incidence rate per 100,000	13%
Positivity rate	3%
Ave. daily hospitalizations	-11%
Ave. daily patients on ventilators	-22%
% ED visits due to CLI	13%



PA state's early warning system dashboard

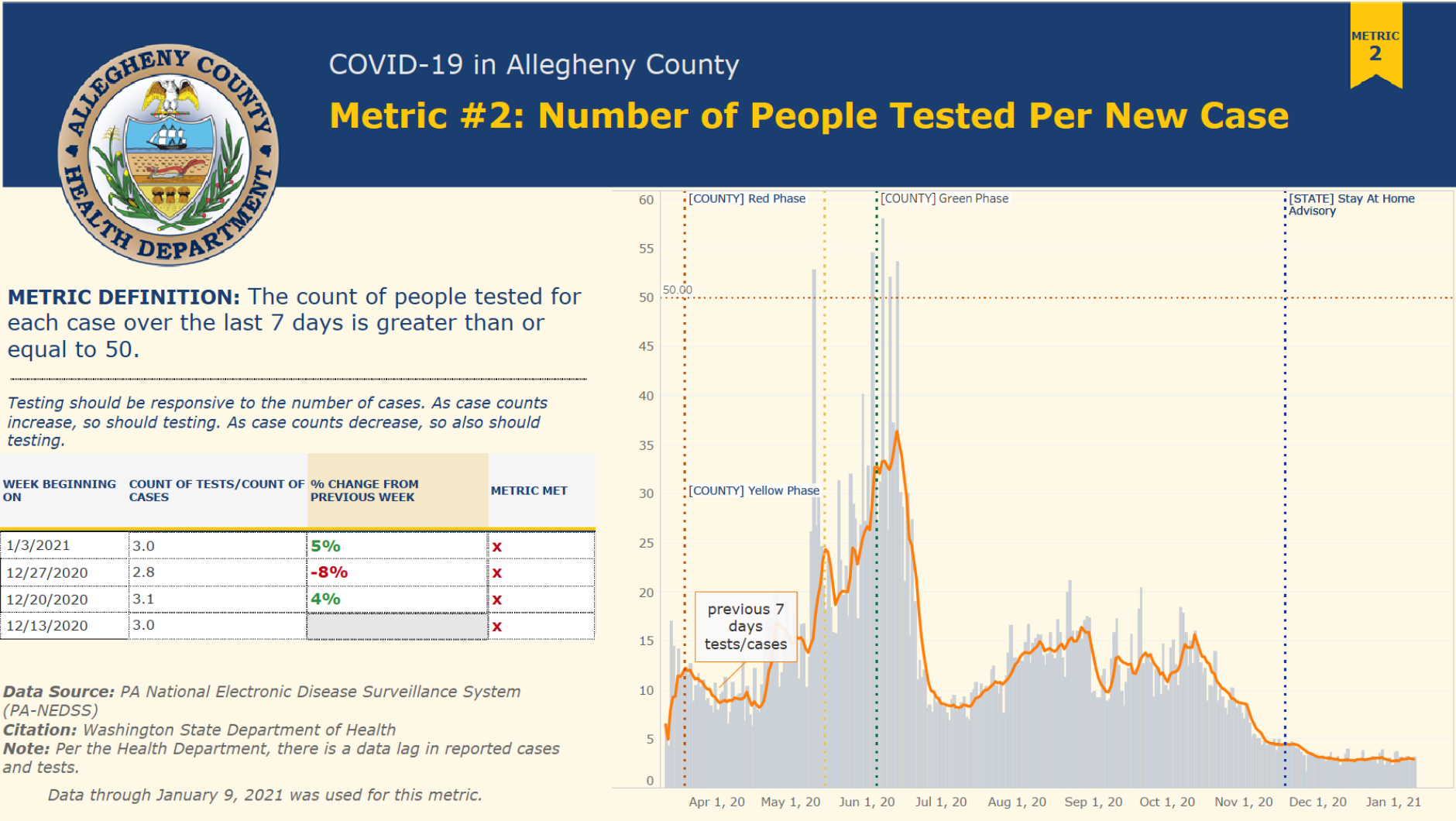
(<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>).

The average weekly positivity rate been steady/decreasing since early December, but remains well above 10%. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, there was a **24% positivity rate** (254 cases out of 1,067 tests).



NOTE: The spikes on the graph are from Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, when there were much fewer tests taken.

Though the number of people tested has been increasing since early September, the number of cases has increased at a faster rate. As such, the number of people tested per new case has been falling since early October. The ratio has been steady since mid-December 795 people were tested on 10/10 (with 40 cases) compared to 1,067 on 1/9 (with 254 cases)



Cases have fell slightly throughout December, but rose in the last two weeks. There were 4,506 cases the week of 1/3.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County

**Metric #3: Declining or Low Case Counts**

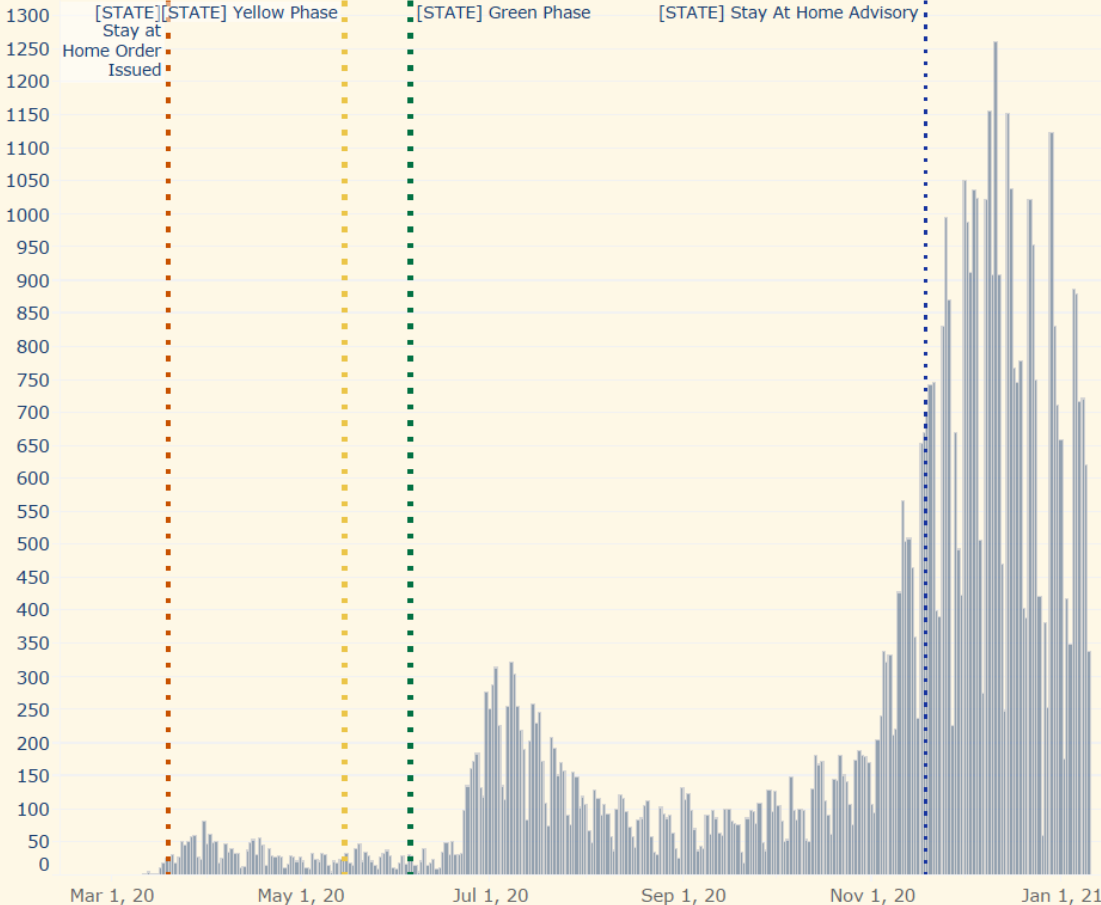
METRIC 3

**METRIC DEFINITION:** The 14 day count of new cases is declining or is consistently low.

A declining or low case counts indicates fewer people are infected and have the ability to spread COVID-19 to others.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	COUNT OF CASES	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	AVERAGE DAILY POSITIVE TEST RATE	METRIC MET
1/3/2021	4,506	8%	24.1%	X
12/27/2020	4,169	5%	25.7%	X
12/20/2020	3,969	-23%	26.3%	X
12/13/2020	5,129		25.6%	X

**Data Source:** PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS)  
**Citation:** National Governors Association  
**Note:** Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests. Data through January 9, 2021 was used for this metric.



The case rate per 100,000 residents fell since 12/15, but has risen over the last few days. On 1/9, there was a case rate of 712 cases per 100,000. The case rate has been above 50 since 6/24.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County  
**Metric #4: Case Rate**

METRIC  
**4**

**METRIC DEFINITION:** The 14 day count of new cases per 100,000 residents is below 50.

Similar to a low case count, a low case rate indicates fewer people are infected and have the ability to spread covid-19 to others.

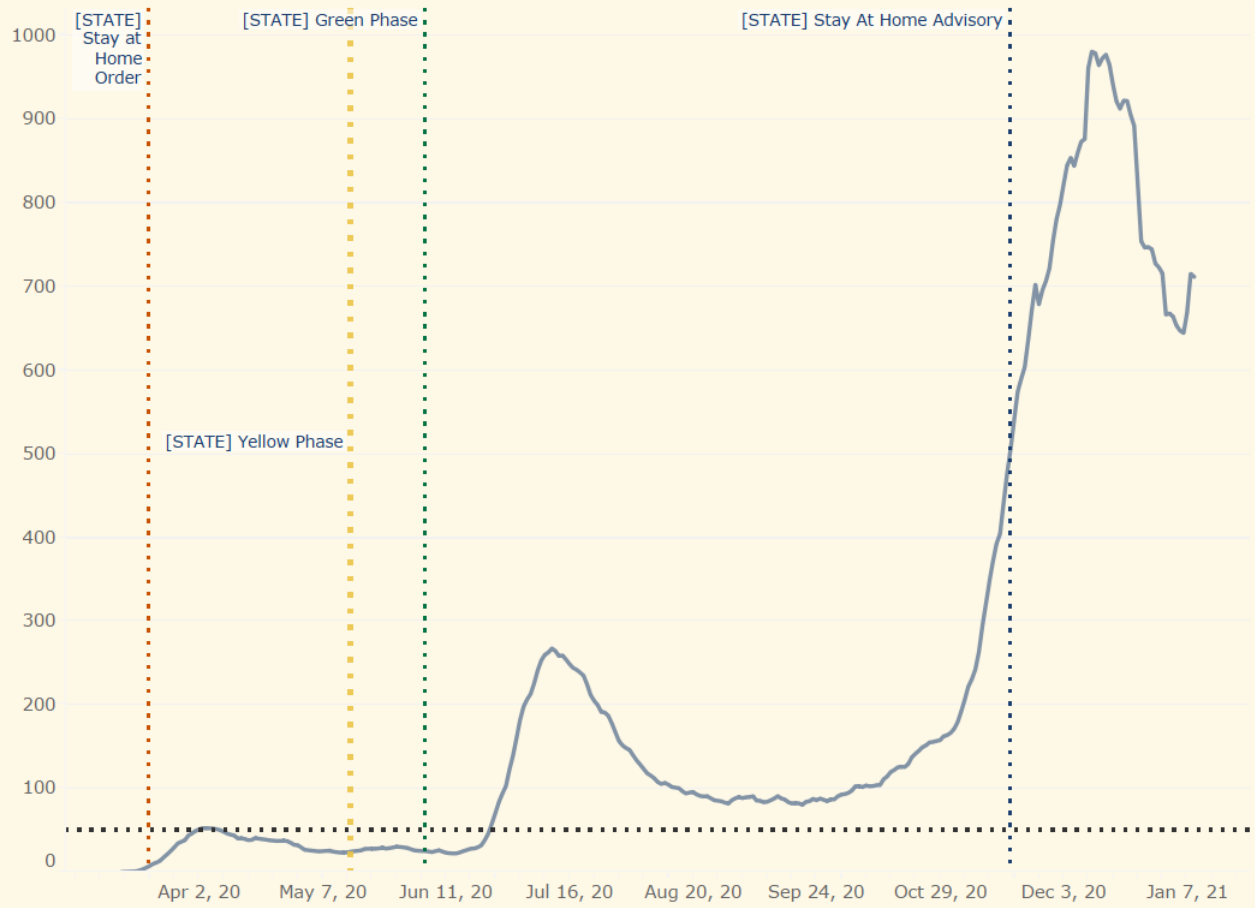
WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE COUNT OF CASES PER 100,000	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET
12/25/2020	738	-18%	X
12/18/2020	901	-7%	X
12/11/2020	969	11%	X
12/4/2020	874		X

**Data Source:** PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS), 2018 US Census Bureau population estimates

**Citation:** State of Pennsylvania (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>)

**Note:** Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests.

Data through January 9, 2021 was used for this metric.





The 3-day average of total net hospitalizations has fallen since 12/17 (859). It was 544 on 1/11.



## COVID-19 in Allegheny County

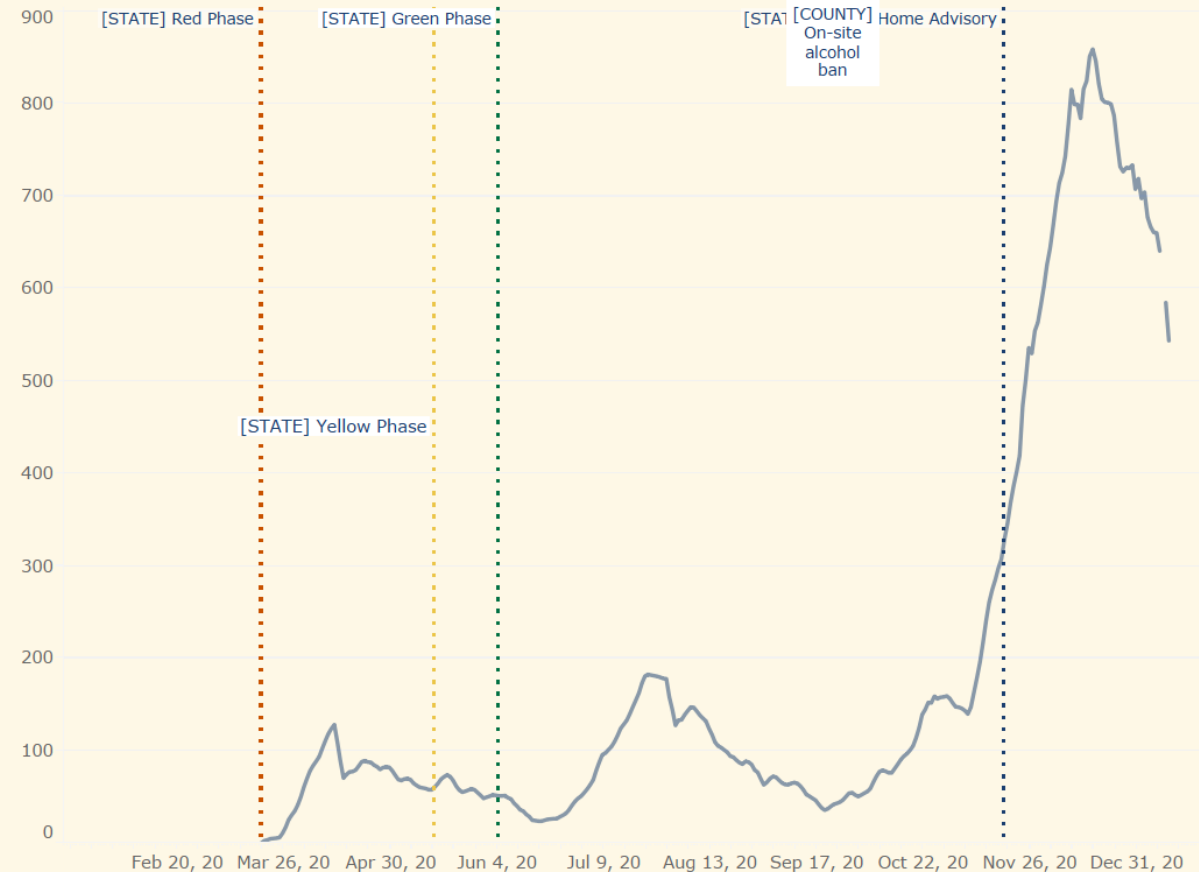
### Metric #5: Decline in Hospitalizations

METRIC  
5

**METRIC DEFINITION:** A decline in the three-day rolling average of total net hospitalizations (defined as the total number of people in the hospital on a given day) over the course of a 14-day period.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER OF PATIENTS	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET ON LAST DAY OF WEEK
1/5/2021	607	-13%	X
12/29/2020	699	-7%	X
12/15/2020	828		X

**Data Source:** Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania  
[https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap\\_research#!/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion](https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap_research#!/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion)  
**Citation:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention





ICU bed usage has remained steady in December. On 1/11 the ICU bed usage was 85%.



## COVID-19 in Allegheny County

### Metric #6: ICU Bed Usage

METRIC  
6

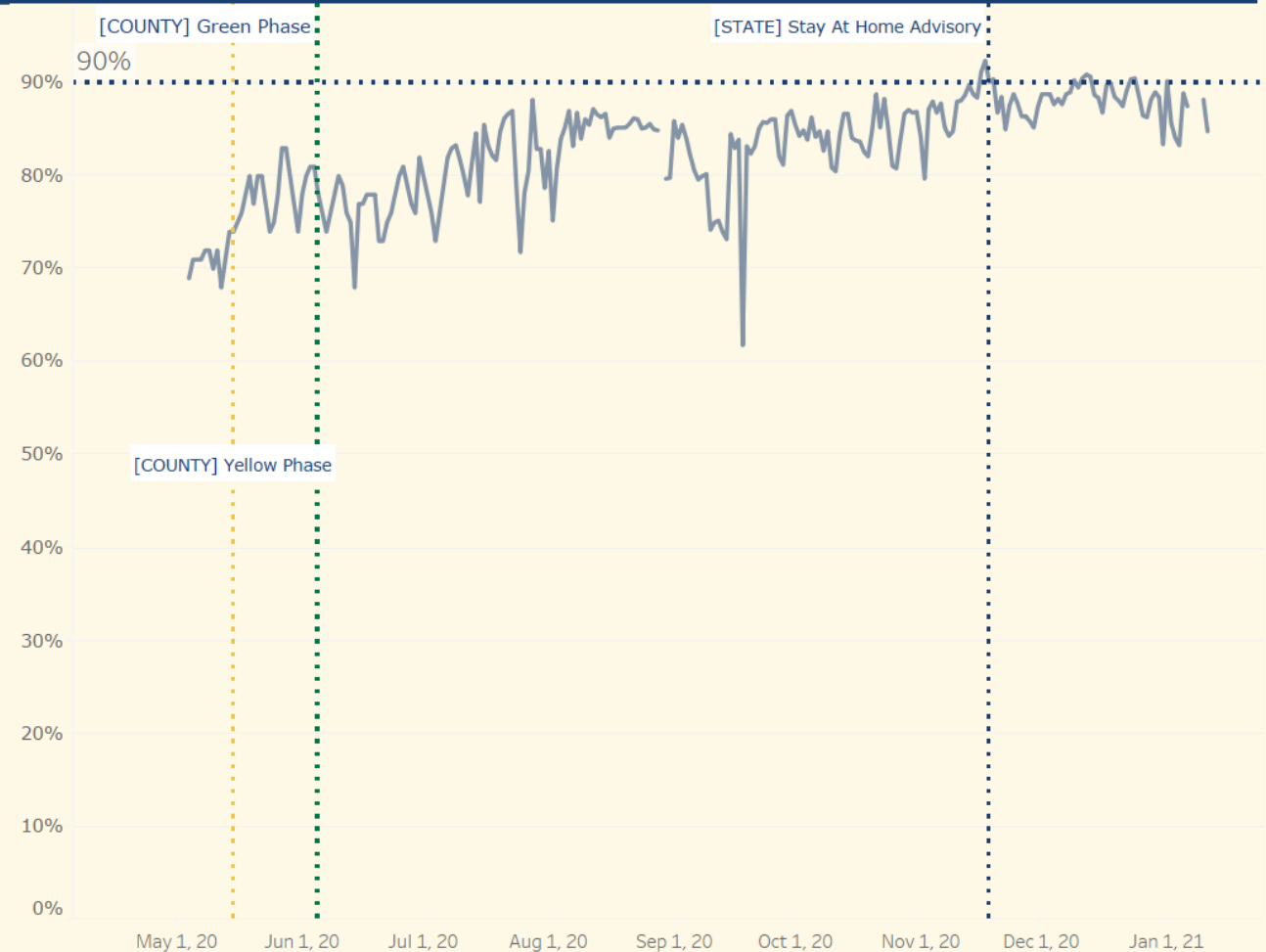
**METRIC DEFINITION:** Percent of ICU beds that are currently occupied is less than 90%

Nearly 30% of hospitalizations for COVID-19 ultimately require critical care. Regional health care systems should both maintain sufficient bed capacity for a potential resurgence in cases and have specific ICU bed capacity.

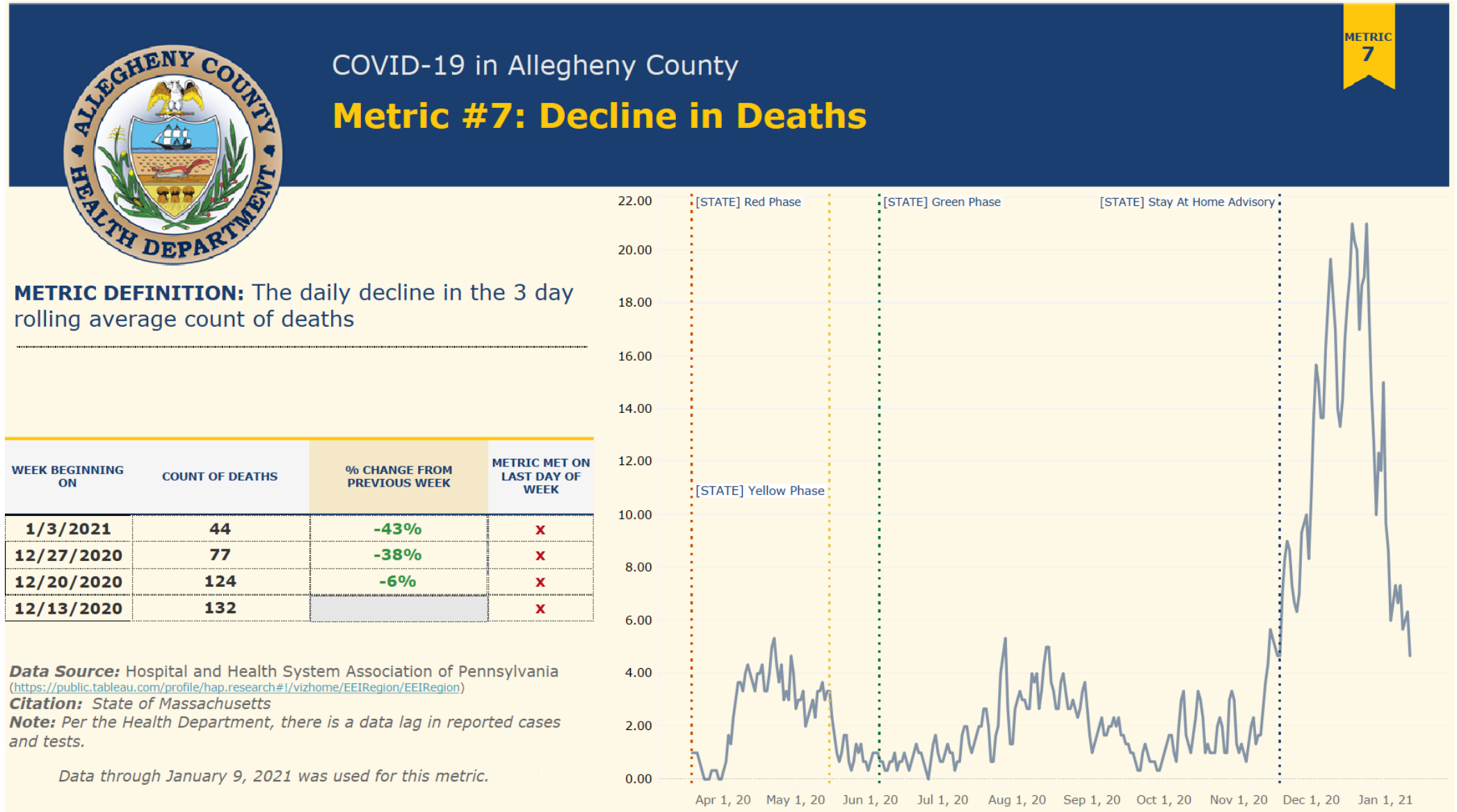
WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE WEEKLY ICU USAGE	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET DURING WEEK
12/29/2020	86.3%	-2.2%	✓
12/22/2020	88.5%	0.1%	✓
12/15/2020	88.4%		✓

**Data Source:** Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania  
[https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap\\_research#1/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion](https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap_research#1/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion)

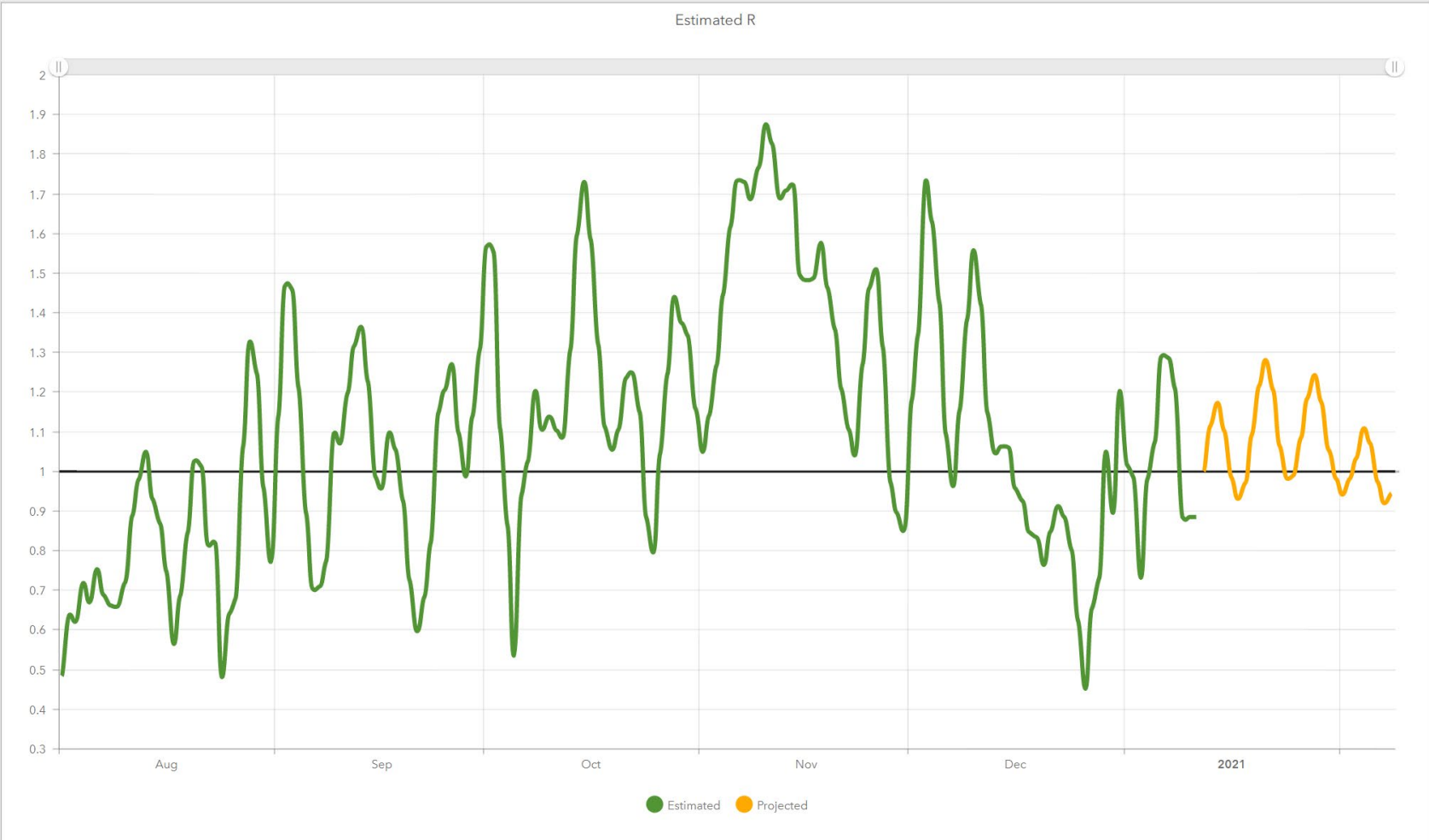
**Citation:** State of Pennsylvania <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/County-Dashboard.aspx>



Deaths have risen since mid-November to a high of 21 (3 day rolling average) on 12/24. Deaths have fallen since then.



All 3 models that we are looking at (CHOP model, RTLive and COVID Act Now) show an R value of falling throughout December. This information shows the CHOP model results. They are projecting the R value to be around 1 until the beginning of February.



Source: <https://policylab.chop.edu/covid-lab-mapping-covid-19-your-community>

# FOOD RESOURCES

Saturday,  
January 23

**Wilkinsburg**

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
East End Behavioral Health Hospital  
225 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15221

[MAKE A RESERVATION](#)

Monday,  
January 25

**Duquesne**

12 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
1 N Linden Street, Duquesne, PA 15110

[MAKE A RESERVATION](#)

Monday,  
February 1

**Duquesne**

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
1 N Linden Street, Duquesne, PA 15110

[MAKE A RESERVATION](#)

**Make  
Reservations  
Here!**

[Drive-Up Food  
Distributions -  
Greater  
Pittsburgh  
Community  
Food Bank  
\(\[pittsburghfood  
bank.org\]\(http://pittsburghfoodbank.org\)\)](#)

The Food Bank's network of food pantries is ready and able to serve you! Connecting with a pantry in your area means consistent access to food.

Use the Food Bank's locator tool to find the pantry closest to you!

<https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/get-help/locator/>

# FRESH CORNERS

# ALL PARTICIPATING STORES ACCEPT SNAP



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

## Fresh Produce in Your Neighborhood

The following stores carry fresh produce through participation in the Fresh Corners program. Call 412-431-8960 x 201 for more information.

### **Carrick:**

Juba Grocery  
2719 Brownsville Road

### **Clairton:**

Produce Marketplace  
519 St. Clair Ave

### **East Liberty:**

Farm Fresh Foods  
226 N. Negley Ave

### **Hill District:**

Ann's Market  
2316 Webster Ave

### **Larimer:**

L.A. Grocery  
511 Larimer Ave

### **Uptown:**

Schwartz Super Market  
1901 Fifth Ave

### **McKeesport:**

Bailey Food Mart  
2316 Bailie Ave.

### **McKees Rocks:**

Rocks Express  
700 Frederick St.

In & Out Corner Market  
300 Helen St.

### **Millvale:**

Yetter's Candies  
504 Grant Ave



# VIRTUAL COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

1/14/21



**CELEBRATING YOUR BABY IS  
"SNOW" MUCH FUN!**

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER**

JANUARY 21 - 11:00 A.M.

REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AND YOU WILL  
RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK.

EVENT IS DESIGNED FOR EXPECTING PARENTS OR  
INDIVIDUALS CARING FOR A NEWBORN (0-3 MONTHS).

**PLAY VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER GAMES - WIN PRIZES - ENAGE WITH OTHER  
ATTENDEES - LEARN FROM COMMUNITY PROVIDERS**

**POST EVENT ALL ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A BABY CARE PACKAGE (VIA MAIL)  
AND INFORMATION FROM RESOURCE PROVIDERS**

**FULL PARTICIPATION IN EVENT IS REQUIRED.**

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://BEVSBIRTHDAYCHEER.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://bevsbirthdaycheer.eventbrite.com)**



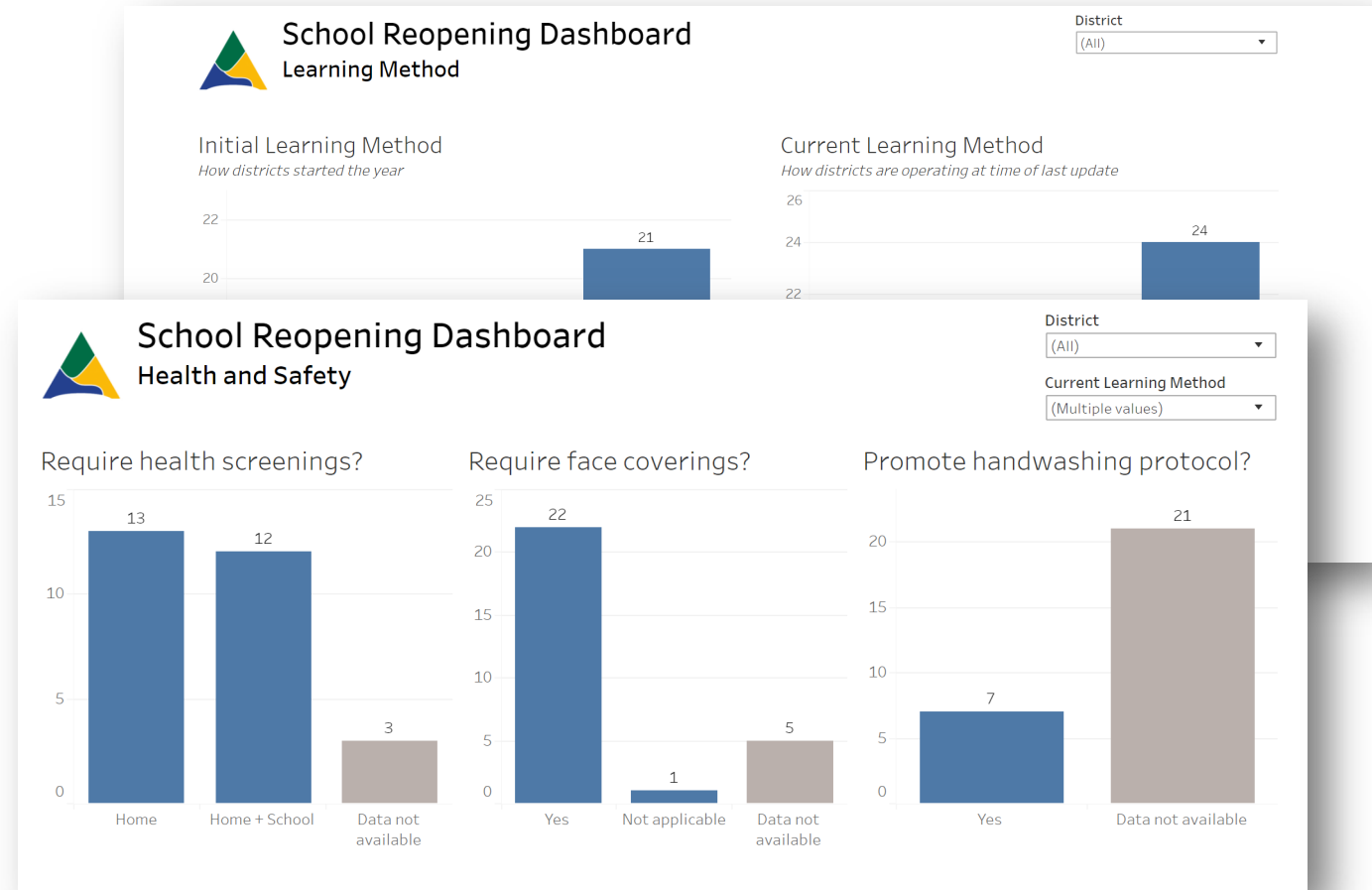
# SCHOOL REOPENING DASHBOARD

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, school districts across the county have been regularly modifying their plans for in-person and remote instruction.

Each district has a detailed plan. To organize this information in one place for providers serving multiple districts, ACDHS and Allies for Children collaborated to create this tool.

Updates are made weekly. There is also an embedded form to give real-time feedback.

**Access the dashboard here:**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/y4726tpr>**



# HEALTH OF THE HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM

- Providers are still operating, sheltering, taking in new clients.
- Harder to find landlords and units available to our folks.
- Still not seeing Section 8 vouchers.
- Adult shelter beds available at some year-round shelters (EECM, Light of Life, & Bethlehem Haven). CALL AHEAD BEFORE SENDING ANYONE.
- Beds filling up most nights at Smithfield and McKeesport winter shelters. People can still come, overflow sent to Safe Haven.
- Shepherd's Heart winter shelter (females) has open beds.
- Youth shelter beds available at DOCS.
- Family Shelter units available, mostly units for smaller families.
- 3 Warming Centers open during hours winter shelters are closed. Centers are located at Catholic Charities, Red Door, McKeesport Downtown Housing.
- Isolation and Quarantine facilities
  - (Safe Haven & Family) receiving referrals, taking in record numbers of people including increased percentage of positive/exposed.
  - Family I&Q space available.



# NEW SAFE HAVEN HIGH VULNERABILITY POLICY

## High Vulnerability Prioritization

**Tier 1 – Ages 65 and up, AND with any of the following conditions:**

**Cancer**

**Chronic Kidney Disease**

**COPD, Cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, and other chronic lung diseases**

**Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant**

**Liver disease**

**Serious Heart conditions: Coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies**

**Sickle cell disease**

**Tier 2 – Ages 60 and up, AND with any of the following conditions:**

**Cancer**

**Chronic Kidney Disease**

**COPD, Cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, and other chronic lung diseases**

**Diabetes Type II**

**Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant**

**Liver disease**

**Serious Heart conditions: Coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies**

**Sickle cell disease**

**1/14/21**

# IN THE WORKS

- ALLEGHENY COUNTY RENT RELIEF PROGRAM 2.0 New rental assistance program expected soon. A top priority for DHS, expecting guidance from US Treasury. May be delay.
- Annual HUD NOFA CoC competition this year will be non-competitive. Expect flat funding for existing programs carried over, anything expiring in 2021 will renew non-competitively. Expecting guidance from HUD soon. May be delay.
- New HUD CoC Projects: There is FY20 CoC funding for new projects in the appropriations bill and HUD has said that they will do some kind of competition for new projects at some point.
- New YHDP project: Additional youth RRH units coming soon!

1/14/21

# PIT COUNT

Official PIT Count is January 27, 2021

Unsheltered count will look different this year: Combination of forms, case conferencing lists, and coordinated entry to count individuals who are unsheltered

- PIT forms can be used if you engage with an individual that should be counted
- Any PIT forms collected MUST be submitted to Jessica McKown no later than February 10, 2021
- PIT forms must have enough information to avoid duplication or we cannot use them

For sheltered individuals, we will be using HMIS data

- HMIS must be up-to-date prior to January 27, 2021

Upcoming PIT trainings are integrated into other CoC meetings including the HOCC and Youth Case Conferencing

Any questions about the sheltered/unsheltered count can be directed towards Jessica McKown via email at [Jessica.McKown@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:Jessica.McKown@allegHENYcounty.us).

# OBH: Online CPS/CRS Testing

The Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) has announced that beginning January 15 the Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Recovery Specialist examination will be offered in an on-demand online format

Please see the following link for details

- <https://www.pacertboard.org/onlineexams>

## EXAMINATION INFORMATION

The following examinations are offered in an on-demand online format:

- Certified Peer Specialist
- Certified Recovery Specialist
- Family-Based Therapy
- Certified Allied Addiction Practitioner

Also beginning in 2021 in-person examinations will be limited to scheduled regional locations throughout the Commonwealth. Counselor, Clinical Supervisor, and Prevention examinations are not available for on-demand online examinations or in-person regional examinations. Applicants for those credentials will need to schedule an examination at an approved examination site.

Once approved to take an on-demand online examination candidates can take the examination on an on-demand basis on any computer (desktop or laptop computers only – no cellphones or tablets may be used) if they meet all requirements listed below. No exceptions will be made.

- 1 Reliable high-speed internet (not hotspot)
- 2 Computer with quality webcam and microphone
- 3 A valid ID with picture will be required to show prior to the examination. Examples of valid IDs include: state issued ID card, drivers license, passport, work ID and/or college/university ID.
- 4 Google Chrome web browser
- 5 Proctorio Extension – instructions for download will be provided upon approval
- 6 Private and interruption free area to take the examination

More information on Proctorio and downloading the extension are located in the PCB Online Examination Guide.

# VACCINATION SUPPORT/EDUCATION

## DOH Vaccination Toolkit



Let's give folks the Facts

- CDC
  - [Recipient Education | COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)
- Check in with Primary Care Physician
- Not a government tracking system

## CYF Provider Vaccination Survey

- Please send to your frontline staff to fill out
- Help support and plan for those who fall in priority categories

# Child welfare specific information

One-time increased funding for **child welfare prevention** (title IV-B), \$75 million nationwide

One-time increased funding for the **Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood** program, \$400 million nationwide

Increases the maximum award for **Chafee Educational and Training Vouchers** and broadens eligibility

- Maximum award increase from \$5,000 to \$12,000
- Raises the maximum age for eligibility: youth can receive services and assistance until age 27 through Sept 30, 2021
- Temporary programmatic flexibilities, including suspension of certain training and postsecondary education requirements and lifts the spending cap on housing costs

**Prohibits states from requiring a child to leave foster care solely due to their age**

Permits youth who aged out of foster care during the COVID19 public health emergency period to **voluntarily re-enter care**

Provides \$20 million for developing, enhancing, and evaluating **kinship navigator programs**

\$2.75 million for the **Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse**

# Child welfare specific information

Makes it easier for youth aging out of the child welfare system who are at risk of homelessness to **access Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers** by allowing them to apply for housing assistance prior to aging out of care and giving them top priority. Specifically, the law:

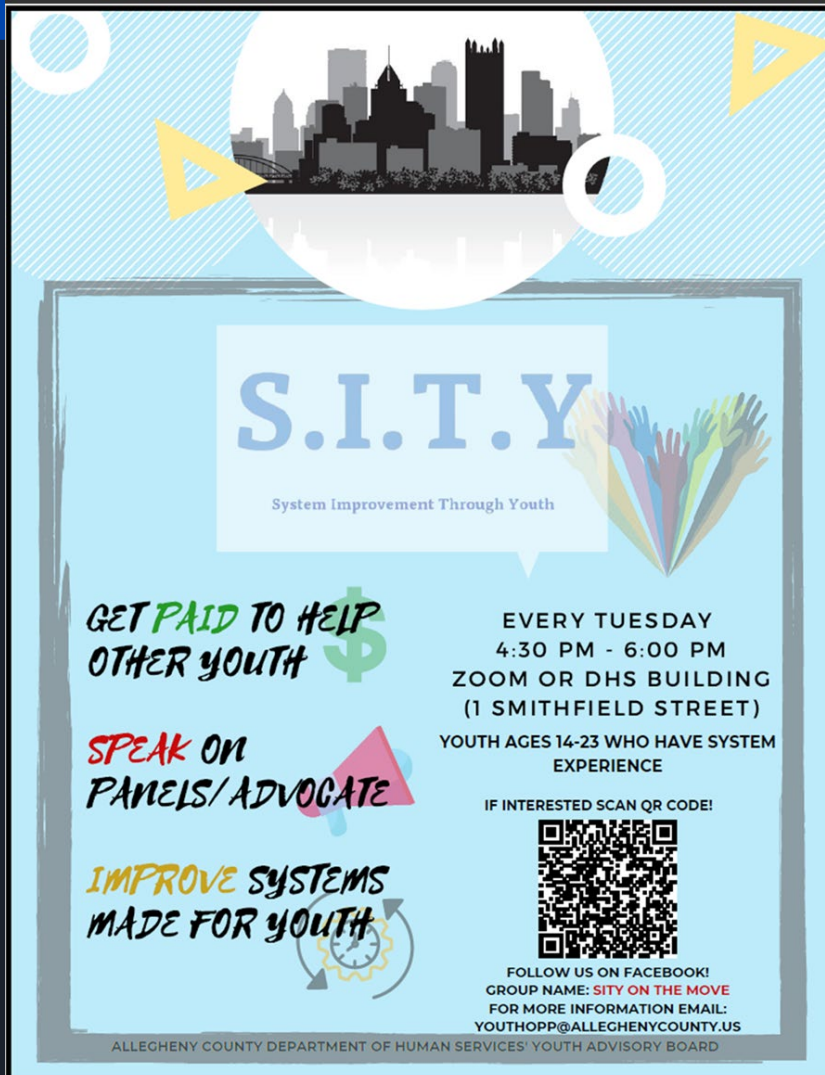
- Extends the FUP voucher of a youth in foster care for up to an additional 24 months as they are working toward self-sufficiency, including participating in a Family Self Sufficiency program
- Requires coordination between PHAs and Public Child Welfare Agencies to identify eligible recipients and help housing agencies to connect youth to supportive services

**FAFSA form and process simplification** taking effect July 1, 2023

- Removes the requirement that foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth recertify their determinations of independence each year and specifies what must be accepted for “documentation”, includes a **phone call, written statement or data match from a child welfare agency or a foster care placing agency or foster care placement**
- FAFSA form will be reduced from 108 questions to 33

Full list of provisions relevant to child welfare from the Children’s Defense Fund available at: <https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Consolidated-Appropriations-Act-2021-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

# S.I.T.Y is Recruiting



The poster features a city skyline silhouette at the top, the acronym 'S.I.T.Y.' in large blue letters, and the tagline 'System Improvement Through Youth'. It lists activities like 'GET PAID TO HELP OTHER YOUTH', 'SPEAK ON PANELS/ADVOCATE', and 'IMPROVE SYSTEMS MADE FOR YOUTH'. It also provides meeting details: 'EVERY TUESDAY 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM ZOOM OR DHS BUILDING (1 SMITHFIELD STREET) YOUTH AGES 14-23 WHO HAVE SYSTEM EXPERIENCE'. A QR code is included with the text 'IF INTERESTED SCAN QR CODE!'. At the bottom, it says 'FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! GROUP NAME: SITY ON THE MOVE FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: YOUTHOPP@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US' and 'ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD'.

**S.I.T.Y.**  
System Improvement Through Youth

**GET PAID TO HELP OTHER YOUTH**

**SPEAK ON PANELS/ADVOCATE**

**IMPROVE SYSTEMS MADE FOR YOUTH**

EVERY TUESDAY  
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
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IF INTERESTED SCAN QR CODE!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!  
GROUP NAME: **SITY ON THE MOVE**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
YOUTHOPP@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

- SITY is DHS's Youth Advisory Board. All members have system experience (CYF, JPO, BH/MH, Developmental Supports, Homeless Services).
- SITY consults on policy and practice improvements related to youth and young adults across the Department of Human Services.
- Focuses on 3 things:
  - **Being learners:** Members receive trainings and opportunities to grow professionally and as advocates.
  - **Community leaders:** Members are willing to volunteer or share their experience strategically to better their communities.
  - **Advocates:** Members learn how to strategically share their experience in a way that will support youth who are currently in our systems.



## Special Delivery

600 COVID Kits made by Goodwill

Sanitizer

Masks

Disinfectant wipes

Lysol

Hand soap

Tissues

and yes, toilet paper



You are invited to become an emergency respite caregiver through A Second Chance. Email [ASCICovidCombat@asecondchance-kinship.com](mailto:ASCICovidCombat@asecondchance-kinship.com) or call Davida Allen at 412-377-2511



# Key Contacts

- Provider questions for Allegheny County Health Department
  - [DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Use the subject field to indicate if your qq is about CYF, Aging, BH, CYF, ID, Community Services, or DHS operations (e.g., contracting, payment)
  - <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>
- Key DHS staff
  - Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho [Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us)
  - Contract inquiries: Kathy Heinz [Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us)  
Laura Brigido [Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us)
- United Way 2-1-1
  - For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services are available.



# Vaccine Rollout

**Phase 1a:** limited supply. Focus on priority populations of frontline healthcare workers. PADOH contracted with the Pharmacy Partnership of CVS and Walgreens to vaccinate residents and staff in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities and other long term care facilities.

**Phase 1b:** first responders, critical workers, and high-risk populations listed in the [state's vaccination plan](#). ACHD, selected pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other organizations will administer vaccines.

**Phase 2:** Increased number of vaccine doses available. ACHD and many other providers will vaccinate the next group of critical workers and other high-risk conditions outlined in the [state's vaccination plan](#).

**Phase 3:** General population