



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
July 30, 2020



General Information

As a reminder, DHS Provider Meetings are held once per week on Thursdays.

If a member of your staff has tested positive for COVID-19, including presumptive positive, or has been exposed to a confirmed case, notify DHS by emailing [DHS-PrivacyOfficer@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:PrivacyOfficer@alleghenycounty.us) (preferred method). Alternatively, you may report via phone to Brian Bell, Allegheny County Privacy Officer, at 412-350-2887.

Testing Sites

A map of COVID testing sites can be found [here](#).

Squirrel Hill Health Center has hosted two testing days at our offices and a mobile testing center in Penn Hills. More dates will be announced soon for our Smithfield Street location. To register, go to www.AlleghenyCovidTesting.com

The Port Authority is launching online public meetings for NEXTransit. This is the first series of public and community meetings to gather input on the future of public transit in the Pittsburgh area. There is a survey available to take and public meetings are being held on August 6th and August 25th. Visit nexttransit.network to learn more.

COVID-19 Guidance Update

As a reminder, on July 17th, ACHD announced new guidance that takes state level guidance into account and remains in effect until revoked.

- Indoor and outdoor dining/alcohol consumption must end by 11 PM. Take-out and delivery for food/alcohol can continue after 11 PM. (State guidance makes it clear the number of indoor diners cannot exceed 25% of the fire code maximum.)
- Events/gatherings limited to 25 people indoors/50 people outdoors. (State guidance allows 250 outdoors, but ACHD kept a lower limit.)

COVID-19 Metrics

Allegheny County is not meeting the following benchmarks:

- Decline in new cases: 816 new cases the week of 7/19; although this is a decline, this remains high.
- New cases below threshold: our rate is 279 per 100,000 residents, still above 50, but decreased by 16% over the last week.
- Diagnostic testing capacity: Our tests to cases ratio is at 13:1, well below the recommendation of 50.
- New cases below threshold: We are now above the PA threshold of 50, at 209.
- Decline in hospitalizations: We have seen an increase in hospitalizations with 167 people hospitalized over the past 14 days.

Allegheny County is meeting the following benchmarks:

- Decline in deaths: There were 10 deaths the week of 7/19. Total deaths did increase in July but have decreased over the last week.
- Rate of transmission below 1: 0.91 during the week of 7/22

- Percent of positive tests: It is now 7.9% and has been decreasing for the last two weeks.
- ICU bed availability: About 17% of ICU beds are available.

DHS Procurement Manager Kelly Prokop joined the call to talk about Cleaning Services for Congregate Care Providers.

- DHS has entered into a contract with ServiceMaster and set up a process for DHS-contracted congregate providers and DHS staff to request cleaning services after a known COVID-19 incident.
- Congregate providers can [request services through this form](#) after someone who meets the following criteria was present in the building:
 - Person has a confirmed positive case of COVID-19
 - Person has been exposed to COVID-19 AND is showing symptoms

We are continuing to improve our website, located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSPROVIDERS.

- [The Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.
- Please submit stories and photos of how the pandemic has changed your operations to Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- U.S. Senate has unveiled a \$1 trillion relief package, formalizing the starting point of negotiations for the next bill.
 - We'll continue to track and report on details of the negotiations.

State and Local Updates

- Based on Pittsburgh City Council action, the City Code will now include language on policing that bans chokeholds and neck restraints and requires officers to intervene if they see “unreasonable force.”

Court Updates

- On July 28th, Judge Clark announced that the courthouse will remain open with more efforts to conduct court activities through teleconferencing.
 - As of now, teleconferencing will be utilized for bail hearings and motions, guilty pleas, sentencing hearings and ARD hearings.
 - Non-jury trials can take place via videoconferencing if the defendant agrees to it.

Food

There are two [upcoming Food Bank food distributions](#):

1. 8/1, Wilkinsburg, 11am
 - a. You must register ahead, allowing you to get multiple boxes in one car if needed.
2. 8/10, Military Share Pittsburgh (in the Strip District), noon
 - a. For Veterans

There are many upcoming [Farmers to Families Food Distributions](#):

- 7/25, McKeesport
- 8/1, Hill District
- 8/7, Clairton
- 8/8, North Side
- 8/14, Penn Hills
- 8/22, North Shore
- 8/29, Washington

The PPS Fresh Produce Distributions will continue every Thursday through 10/29 at Milliones, Carmalt, Perry, Faison and The Gifted Center.

Grab and Go meals are available to all children 18 and under at [Summer Youth Café](#); the meals will be available throughout the summer. Call 2-1-1 or text “FOOD” to 877-877 to find your site.

Program Updates

AAA

- Senior Centers in Allegheny County are in Phase 1, where we are planning for reopening but there are no in-person services occurring. All centers remain closed at this time.

OCS

- Allies for Children has compiled [every district's reopening plan](#). Almost all districts have announced their preliminary plans at this point, with most using remote or hybrid models.
- DHS is having conversations with districts, partners and providers
 - We hope to share some concrete options with our partners next week.

CYF

- Resources for Older Youth
 - [Toolkit for Young Adults: 15 to 21](#)
 - [Coronavirus Self-Checker](#)
 - [Support For Teens and Young Adults](#)
 - [Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#)
 - PA Older Youth Retreat will be held virtually from August 7-10.
 - Please register for any sessions you are interested in here: <http://forms.cwrc.pitt.edu/VirtualOYR2020/>. Use **PACWRC Staff** as your registration type.
 - Additional information on these sessions and the 2020 Older Youth Retreat can be found on the PA Youth Advisory Board website. <http://www.payab.pitt.edu/VirtualRetreat.htm>
- As a reminder, we are inviting our staff and providers to become emergency respite caregivers through A Second Chance. Please promote this program. We are seeing an increased need and we need more placements for children whose caregivers are unable to care for them due to coronavirus symptoms or hospitalization. Email ASCICovidCombat@secondchance-kinship.com or call Davida Allen at 412-377-2511 or Tara Skibieli at 412-715-9242.

How to Reach Us

- Email us at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us with questions. Use the subject line to indicate the type of question you are submitting (e.g., program area, DHS operations).
- The COVID Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 412-687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED AT TODAY'S CALL