



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**

**April 29, 2021**



## General Information

DHS Provider Meetings will now be held **every other week** over the summer, beginning **Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month).**

As a reminder, free public Wi-Fi is live at 13 sites around the county. Find hotspots at [wifi.alleghenycounty.us](http://wifi.alleghenycounty.us). Devices are also available:

- DHS has distributed over 2,800 laptops to date
- DHS has distributed over 760 hotspots to date
- DHS continues to receive requests for devices
  - [Device Request Form](#)
- We have headsets in stock! If you need a headset, please email us: [dhs-covid19supplies@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:dhs-covid19supplies@alleghenycounty.us)

As a reminder, May 3rd is the last day to register for the May 18th primary election.

- [Voter Registration Application \(Online\)](#)
- [Mail-In/Absentee Ballot Application \(Online\)](#) - To vote using an absentee or mail-in ballot, completed applications must be received in the Allegheny County Board of Elections office by 5:00 PM on May 11th. The deadline to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot is 8:00 PM on May 18th.
- [Mail-In/Absentee Ballot Tracker](#) – Track the status of your mail-in or absentee ballot, if your application has been received, if your ballot has been mailed, and if your completed ballot has been received.

## Covid-19 Metrics

- We are seeing declines in all Covid metrics except for average daily patients on ventilators, which remains small. PA state's early warning system dashboard can be found here <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>.
- More than half of Allegheny County residents have received one shot. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Dashboard.aspx>

We encourage you to sign up for your vaccination.

- ACHD First Dose Clinics in Castle Shannon, Ross, Hill District, McKeesport
  - [Vax4.alleghenycounty.us](http://Vax4.alleghenycounty.us) or call 2-1-1

## Vaccine Hesitancy Survey

ACHD is interested in hearing from you regarding current vaccine information and hesitancy. If you are seeing concerns about the vaccine among your staff or clients, please fill out the survey here:

<https://bit.ly/2RRTGiF>

- ACHD will use the information you provide to compile and disseminate the resources you need to educate others and address community concerns.
- A live discussion was held about vaccine hesitancy. Concerns included moms and future fertility, youth and incentives, youth who have already tested positive. Ideas included exploring what universities and local school districts are doing, using social media.
- Dr. Bogen shared that pharmacies have been reaching out to schools, ACHD is doing outreach on Pfizer events near schools. AHN has been doing J&J vaccinations of staff and clients in the jail. Nearly every senior building has had vaccine delivered to the building through ACHD and many providers. FQHCs have done homebound work, EMS folks working at ACHD sites have gone out to people's homes. If you are homebound, call customer service of your health insurance plan (Highmark or UPMC); they will arrange vaccine for you. If you don't have either insurer, call 2-1-1 to get registered. Operation Safety Net and others have been working on reaching homeless shelters.

The Rental Assistance program is ongoing, please continue to get the word out, especially to older adults who may believe they are not eligible. Only about 3% of applications have been from folks 65 and older. <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/toolkit-for-partners/>

Children's hospital is continuing to see more ingestions. We still have lock boxes available - please contact Jacki Hoover or Denise Macerelli to obtain them.

Check windows for safety. Children may be curious to see what is outside.

#### Self-care for Staff Idea Sharing

- CYF has a Trauma Coordinator who sends out weekly self-care ideas, thinking about how we respond to incidents, hosts Vitality Cafes for peer support.
- The YSP Unit Clinical and Wellness Manager has been meeting with all of our staff to help us create individual self-care plans.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

### State and Local Updates

- Allegheny County Council passed a measure on Tuesday to create a county Independent Police Review Board.
  - County Executive Fitzgerald will sign the bill, which will take effect January 2021.
  - The Board has limited jurisdiction over the county's own police department.
  - The county has no authority over municipal police departments, although they can "opt in" and accept its oversight.
- The Port Authority seeks public comment on raising bus fares to \$2.75 and canceling transfer fees for prepaid Connect Card users.

- People who pay in cash would continue to pay \$2.75 every time they board, while ConnectCard users would have free transfers during a 3-hour window.
- Two additional virtual meetings occurring: Friday, April 30 & Tuesday, May 4.
- [Information on the meetings and making online public comments here.](#)

### Federal Updates

- Impact of the 2020 Census on house seats
  - The Census is important for funding, apportionment of House seats based on population.
  - Overall, the South and west are seeing population increases.
  - With the population changes, Pennsylvania will go from 18 seats in the US House of Representatives to 17. In 1980, PA had 23 seats.
  - Next, state redistricting processes begins with PA Legislative Reapportionment Commission.
- The American Families Plan, which needs to be passed by Congress, aims to do the following and would be paid for with tax increases to corporations and high-income Americans: increased childcare subsidies, universal pre-k and two free years of community college, expanded economic supports and tax credits, expanded nutrition benefits and unemployment insurance reform. Please see the slide presentation for details.

### **Program Updates**

None today

### **How to Reach Us**

- Email us at [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto: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. 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.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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