



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting

May 27, 2021



General Information

DHS Provider Meetings are now being held at 4:30 PM every other week over the summer, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

Active Solicitations

- RFP for the Operator of the Low-Barrier Shelter and Drop-In Center at Second Avenue Commons
 - Proposals are due at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 25.
- RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory
 - The quarterly submission deadline in June is coming up on Tuesday, June 15 at 3 p.m.
- [Link to DHS Solicitations](#)

As a reminder, please submit uncovered COVID-related expenses:

Please submit these expenses into MPER no later than 7/8/21	Expenses must be incurred between 7/1/20 and 6/30/21	All expenses submitted will be reviewed by the DHS compliance unit <small>Supporting information can be sent to Lisa Impavido lisa.impavido@allegheycounty.us</small>
Submitted expenses are not guaranteed to be paid	Payment is also dependent on availability of funding	Lost revenue cannot be considered

Legislative/Policy Updates

State and Local Updates

State: Emergency Disaster Declaration

- Last week, PA voters approved constitutional amendments that limit a governor's ability to issue and extend emergency declarations.
- Gov. Tom Wolf has since renewed the state's COVID-19 declaration and has challenged the General Assembly's understanding of the new amendment.
- A House resolution to rescind several components of the recently renewed emergency declaration advanced this week and will soon be taken up by the Senate.

- The resolution reinstates work search requirements for unemployed individuals, ends the administration's ability to engage in no-bid contracts, and eliminates the governor's ability to enact occupancy limits, business closures and stay-at-home orders.
- Disagreement continues about executive vs legislative emergency power:
 - Gov. Wolf maintains the executive orders he issued under the power of the disaster declaration cannot be undone by the legislature's resolution because the orders are separate from the declaration itself.
 - The General Assembly is challenging this assertion since the enabling disaster declaration could be ended by their vote under the new amendments, but it seems clear the conflict will be decided ultimately by the Courts.

State: Opioid Disaster Declaration

- Questions remain on whether or not the General Assembly will act to repeal the opioid state of emergency Gov. Wolf has kept going for two years.
- The current opioid declaration limits the number of opioid prescriptions doctors can prescribe, provides access to medication-assisted treatment programs, and established the Centers of Excellence. The order also waived birth certificate requirements to enter a treatment program.

State: Oversight of COVID-19 Funds

- Recently elected Auditor General Timothy DeFoor is calling on state lawmakers to implement a series of safeguards and regulations on the spending of federal COVID-19 dollars, Coronavirus State Fiscal Relief, that the state is receiving.
 - Appearing with the Auditor General, State Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, a frequent champion of fiscal reform policies, is sponsoring legislation that would tighten oversight of state-issued grants and allow the state to “claw-back” surplus grant funds.
 - This legislation is still in Committee in the Senate.
- **Health Department Update – Dr. Debra Bogen**



COVID-19 in ALLEGHENY COUNTY



OVERALL

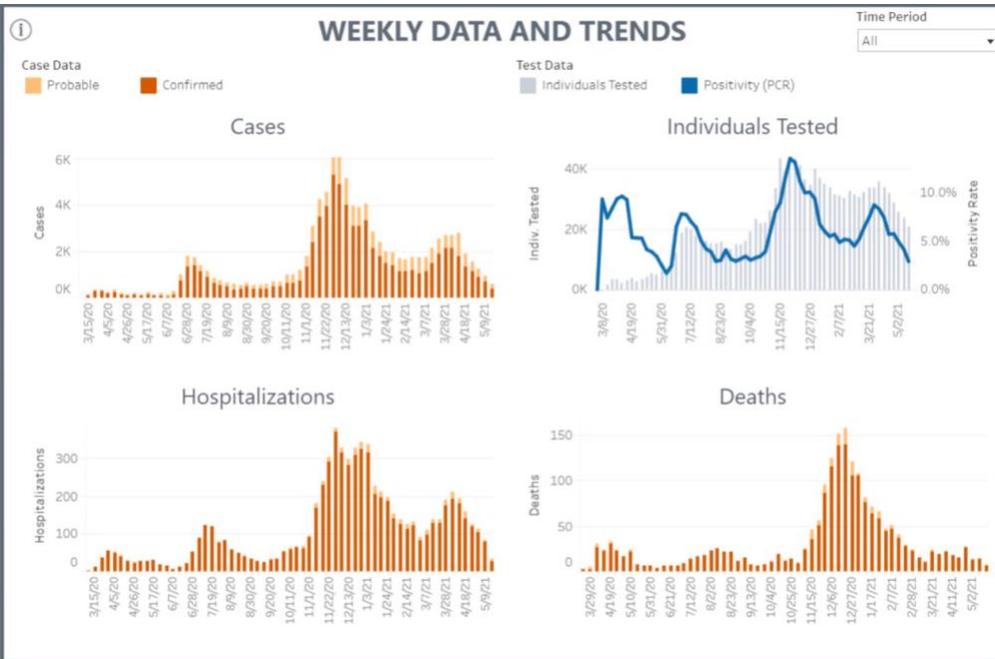
Cases: 101,056	Individuals Tested: 558,926	Positivity (PCR): 6.7%	Hospitalizations: 7,121	Deaths: 1,942
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7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE

Cases: 111	Individuals Tested: 3,038	Positivity (PCR): 3.6%	Hospitalizations: 10	Deaths: 1
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<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/health-department/resources/covid-19/covid-19.aspx>





COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard

Select a County
ALLEGHENY

Page Navigation
All Counties



Newly reported confirmed cases



Decreased from 785 confirmed cases the previous seven days to 518 in the most recent seven days.

785

518

Previous 7 days

Most recent 7 days



Incidence rate per 100,000 residents



Decreased from a rate of 64.6 per 100,000 residents in the previous seven days to 42.6 per 100,000 residents in the most recent seven days.

64.6

42.6

Previous 7 days

Most recent 7 days



PCR testing positivity rate



Decreased from a PCR testing positivity rate of 5 percent during the previous seven days to 4 percent over the most recent seven days.

5.0%

4.0%

Previous 7 days

Most recent 7 days



Average daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations



Decreased from 157.4 daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations, on average, over the previous seven days to 137.4 daily COVID-19 specific hospitalizations, on average, over the most recent seven days.

157.4

137.4

Previous 7 days

Most recent 7 days



Average daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators



Increased from 28.4 daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators, on average, over the previous seven days to 29.7 daily COVID-19 patients on ventilators, on average, over the most recent seven days.

28.4

29.7

Previous 7 days

Most recent 7 days



Percent of hospital emergency department visits due to COVID-like-illness (CLI)



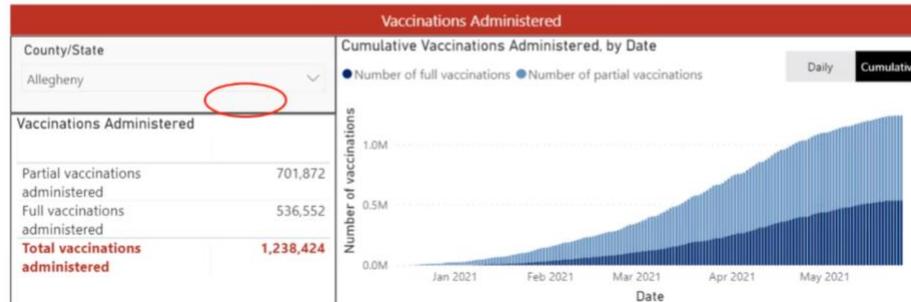
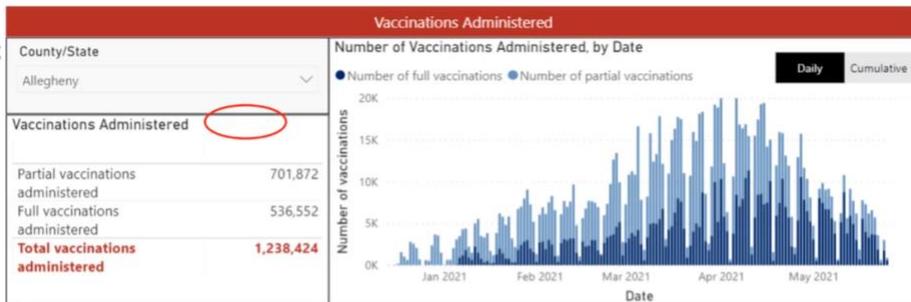
Decreased from 0.5 percent of hospital emergency department visits in the previous seven days due to COVID-like-illness (CLI) in the previous seven days to 0.3 percent in the most recent seven days.

0.5%

0.3%

Previous 7 days

Most recent 7 days



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



County Vaccination

- ▶ 71% of population with at least one vaccine
 - ▶ 65 and older: 98%
 - ▶ 50 to 64: 74%
 - ▶ 35 to 49: 66%
 - ▶ 20 to 34: 56%
 - ▶ 15 to 19: 37%
 - ▶ 12 to 14: 9%

Individuals Vaccinated Allegheny County

- Partially	199,762
- Fully	<u>536,552</u>
- Total	736,314



Commonwealth COVID Mitigation Orders

- ▶ PA Guidance (<https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>)
 - ▶ May 31, 2021, lifting COVID mitigation orders.
 - ▶ Masking order will be lifted on June 28 or when 70% adults get their second dose of vaccine, whichever comes first.
 - ▶ These updates will not prevent municipalities and school districts from continuing and implementing stricter mitigation efforts.
 - ▶ DOH recommends that Pennsylvanians refer to CDC guidance and recommendations regarding ongoing COVID-19 safety measures and procedures.
- ▶ CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance.html>
- ▶ Use what learned about COVID past 15 months
 - ▶ Consider risk level of different experiences
 - ▶ Consider your own risk level and that of those you come into contact

Q & A for Dr. Bogen

Q: Can you clarify the 70%? We've reached that already.

A: Need 70% of people to be fully vaccinated at state level (not Allegheny County level)

Q: Can you clarify the state mask mandate through 6/28?

A: If vaccinated, mask is not required. If not fully vaccinated, refer to state website, but also CDC guidance. Businesses can set their own standards.

Q: Any thoughts about timing of booster shots? Is there a process yet?

A: No answer yet. That is still being studied. In Moderna trial I am in, I get my bloodwork done every 6 months to determine how long the benefits of the vaccine last.

Q: Any guidance about kids swimming in pools?

A: I don't know yet. I haven't seen anything that says no. We have to see what opens. The County pools are opening June 5. It is hard to imagine pools opening and not allowing kids to swim in them.

Q: Our 3-story building houses a domestic violence shelter, but there are several areas that are administrative only/non client areas. May vaccinated staff not mask in the staff-only common areas?

A: I do not make statements about individual businesses. I would advise you to check the CDC Guidance, which has a lot of guidance about very specific situations.

LISC is providing grants to 501c3 partner organizations to coordinate free rides to vaccination sites for residents who cannot get there on their own.

- Funds will cover the cost of rides, staffing and other operational costs.
- Partners are expected to coordinate rides for at least 250 people.
- Riders do not need to have a smart phone, credit card, or Uber/Lyft app.
- The program will run through December 31, 2021 (whereas free ride offers directly through Lyft and Uber extend only through July 4th).
- To view the guidelines and apply, visit the [Overview](#) and [Intake Questionnaire](#)

Available vaccine transport options for individuals:

- Call 2-1-1 to access:
 - Free transportation to an ACHD clinic through ACCESS for those aged 65+, MATP eligible, or with mobility needs
 - This option may provide the best vehicle fit for those with mobility needs.
- Free transportation to any vaccination site through Ride United partnership with Lyft.
- Open the Uber app and tap "Vaccine" for \$25 off each of up to four rides (first and second doses).
- Open the Lyft app and enter code LYFTVACCINE for \$15 off each of up to two rides.

The Squirrel Hill health Center is looking for indoor or outdoor locations for pop-up vaccination sites.

- Mobile Unit is available for outdoor sites.
- Offerings include one- or two-dose vaccines (J&J or Moderna), and evening and weekend hours, depending on availability.
- If you are interested, please contact Emily Magoc - emagoc@squirrelhillhealthcenter.org.

The Community Health Survey

- The Allegheny County Health Department seeks public participation in its [Community Health Assessment Survey](#) supplement on the impacts of 2020.
- This survey is part of the ACHD's 2021 Community Health Assessment, which when complete will serve as a living document of community health data to support decision making, grant making and health improvement strategies.
- Survey results will be combined with results from a larger health survey conducted by the ACHD in 2019.
- The survey is accessible online in English and Spanish [here](#).
- Community organizations can request paper surveys in multiple languages through a form shared on the online survey and available directly [here](#).
- Residents who complete the survey can enter an optional raffle for a Giant Eagle gift card.

Children Initiatives Department Director

- County Executive Fitzgerald announced that Rebecca (Becky) Mercatoris has been named the first director of the new Department of Children Initiatives.
- Mercatoris begins her new role on June 7, 2021.
- Mercatoris previously worked for Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) as the Bureau Director of the Bureau of Early Learning Policy and Professional Development. Prior experience also includes positions with the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC), the Southwest Regional Key and Tender Care Learning Centers.

Election Results: - Brandon Forbes, DHS

Pittsburgh Mayoral Race

- State Rep. Ed Gainey defeats Mayor Bill Peduto.
 - Paving the way for him to become the first Black Mayor of Pittsburgh
 - First time an incumbent mayor has lost since 1933 (New Deal realignment knocked Republicans out of office after 28 years)

- Gainey defeated Peduto in the East End, though he lost almost every precinct south of the Mon.
- Turnout was almost 40%!
- Former Police Detective Tony Moreno’s candidacy, even finishing a distant third, had a direct impact on the election.
 - Won 13%, roughly 3500 votes over the difference between Gainey and Peduto
 - Moreno also won the write-in for Republican ticket. Has not committed to running yet.

City Council Races – Contested

- Councilman Lavelle and Councilwoman Strassburger cruise to reelection with no opponents
- District 4 – Carrick, Brookline, Beechview
 - Incumbent City Councilman Anthony Coghil
 - Former Council staffer Bethani Cameron
- District 2 – Mt. Washington, West End, Elliot
 - Incumbent and City Council President Theresa Kail-Smith
 - Community organizer Jacob Williamson

Pittsburgh Public School Board

- District 1 - Incumbent School Board President Sylvia Wilson beat progressive challengers Grace Higginbotham, an education consultant, and Carlos Thomas, a chef, winning 56% of the vote.
- District 3 - Incumbent Sala Udin won with 51% of the vote, defeating Lamont Frazier Jr., a father who works in construction.
- District 5 –Tracey Reed unseated incumbent Terry Kennedy, garnering 58% of the vote. Kennedy assumed the seat in 2013 and is set for a rematch after cross-filing and winning the Republican primary.
- District 7 – With Cynthia Falls not running, social worker Jamie Piotrowski emerged victorious in the open seat race against Khamil Scantling. Piotrowski won 65% of the vote.
- District 9 – Challenger Gene Walker won a three-way race with 40% of the votes over incumbent Veronica Edwards, who won 38%, and Delancy Walton, who won 22%. Edwards cross-filed as a Republican and won that primary.

Statewide Judicial Races

- PA Supreme Court – One seat
 - Kevin Brobson (R) will face Maria McLaughlin (D)
 - Allegheny County’s Patricia McCoullough came in 2nd on the Republican ballot.
- PA Superior Court – One seat
 - Timika Lane (D) will face Megan Sullivan (R)
 - Allegheny County’s Jill Beck and Bryan Neft came in 2nd and 3rd respectively on the Dem ticket.

- PA Commonwealth Court – One seat
 - Lori Dumas (D) will face Stacy Marie Wallace.
 - Allegheny County’s Amanda Green-Hawkins (D) came in 3rd on the Dem ticket.

Court of Common Pleas

Democratic Ballot Winners

Chelsa Wagner – 74K
 Sabrina Korbel -- 68K
 Wrenna Watson - 59K
 Lisa Middleman – 59K
 Nicola Henry-Taylor – 58K
 Elliot Howsie – 54K
 Tiffany Sizemore – 54K
 Bruce Beemer – 51K
 Jessel Costa – 43K

Republican Ballot Winners

Joseph Patrick Murphy – 26K
 Bruce Beemer – 21K
 Anthony DeLuca – 20K
 Daniel Konieczka, Jr. – 20K
 Bill Caye – 19K
 Chuck Porter – 18K
 Sabrina Korbel - 18K
 Mark Patrick Flaherty – 17K
 Lisa Middleman 14K

County Council

Six Districts up for re-election, District 4 (Council President Pat Catena – D) and District 12 (Bob Palmosina – D) are both unopposed and have no Republican challenger. Even if Republicans won all three Districts in which they will challenge in November (which is not likely), Democrats would still have a comfortable County Council majority.

- District 1 Moon, Coraopolis, North Fayette, Ross
 - Incumbent Tom Baker (R) is not running for re-election.
 - Jack Betkowski is only (D), Joe Wise is only (R).
- District 3 Shaler, Fox Chapel, West Deer
 - Incumbent Anita Prizio is only (D), Meredith Dolan is only (R)
- District 8 Braddock, Plum, Swissvale
 - Incumbent Paul Zavarella (D), who was appointed to replace the late Charles Martoni, is not running.
 - Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis is only (D), Eric Casteel is only (R).
- District 9 McKeesport, Forward, North Versailles
 - Incumbent Council Vice President Bob Macey (D) easily defeated a primary challenge from teacher Steven Singer (D). There is no (R) on the ballot.

State Ballot Question 1: Termination or Extension of Disaster Emergency Declarations

- Currently, only Pennsylvania’s governor can end a disaster declaration, like the one the state is currently under to deal with COVID-19. State law gives the General Assembly the option to pass a resolution to terminate the declaration, though the state Supreme Court ruled last year the governor still gets the final say. The legislature can overturn a governor’s veto with support from two-thirds of members.

- This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a majority of lawmakers to terminate the declaration at any time, without the governor’s consent.
- Passed 52% to 48%

State Ballot Question 2: Disaster Emergency Declaration Management

- This question asks voters to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to limit a disaster declaration to 21 days. It could only then be continued with the consent of the legislature.
- At the moment, a disaster declaration lasts 90 days and can be renewed as many times as deemed necessary by the governor. The measure would also prevent the governor from issuing a new disaster declaration based on the same or similar facts.
- Passed 52% to 48%

State Ballot Question 3: Prohibition against Denial or abridgement of Equality of Rights because of Race or Ethnicity

- This proposal amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to enshrine discrimination protections to Pennsylvanians based on race and ethnicity.
- Passed

State Ballot Question 4: Making Municipal Fire and EMS Companies Eligible for Loans

- This is a statewide referendum (as opposed to a constitutional amendment) that would allow municipal fire departments or companies with paid personnel, as well as EMS companies, to apply for a loan through an existing state-run program for volunteer companies. The money can be used to modernize or purchase equipment.
- Passed

Allegheny County Ballot Question and City of Pittsburgh Ballot Question

- Allegheny County Ballot Question: **PROHIBITING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL**
 - If this question is approved by a majority of those voting, the Allegheny County Code, Allegheny County Jail, shall include new sections governing, regulating and documenting the conditions of confinement. The conditions of confinement affected by the proposed ordinance would prohibit solitary confinement (more than 20 hours per day) except for limited circumstances and not to be used as punishment, and prohibiting the use of restraining chairs, chemical agents or leg shackles.
 - Passed 69% to 31%
- City of Pittsburgh Ballot Question: **PROHIBITING NO-KNOCK WARRANTS**
 - If this question is approved by a majority of those voting, Article 10, Section 1001, Powers of the Pittsburgh Police will be added to the City of Pittsburgh Home Rule Charter, requiring Pittsburgh Police to physically knock and announce themselves before forcibly gaining entry to execute warrants. “No knock” procedures shall be prohibited.

- Passed 81% to 19%

Election Takeaways

- Urban progressives continue to make strides.
 - Gainey's win, plus progressive win in open PPS District 7 and defeat of two PPS incumbents (who did win on R side).
 - Allegheny County Common Pleas judges – four people of color on Dem ticket, Middleman wins on both R and D ticket.
 - DA Larry Krasner win in Philly
 - Mayoral candidate of color Wanda Williams defeats Papenfuse in Harrisburg.
 - Erie County Executive Dem race goes to Tyler Titus, who would become the first trans county executive in the US if elected in the fall.
- Gainey's win opens up his state rep seat (Garfield, Highland Park, Homewood, Wilkesburg)
- Philly maintains statewide Dem dominance in primaries, taking all three statewide judicial nominations with their candidates.
- Local County and City referendums resounding wins for criminal justice reform.

Coming up Next:

- Our next meeting is on June 10, 2021.
- Featured Topic: Trauma

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. 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.