

What Connects Us

Allegheny County Department of Human Services



12/16/21

Provider Briefing

Agenda



- 4:30 – 4:40 PM:** Policy / Legislative Update and Active Solicitations
- 4:40 – 5:00 PM:** Overview of Juvenile Justice Diversion Solicitation – Sara Goodkind, Kimberly Booth and Samantha Murphy
- 5:00 – 5:10 PM:** Letter of Support Request Process - Hilary Marcella
- 5:10 – 5:30 PM:** COVID-19 / COVID-19 Vaccination Update - Dr. Debra Bogen



Join the DHS Team!

<https://alleghenycounty.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=82>



Policy and Legislative Update

HHS/HUD Resource Center



- The newly created Housing and Services Resource Center aims to improve access to affordable, accessible housing and the critical services that make community living possible.
- HUD and HHS partnered to implement this federally coordinated approach to providing resources, program guidance, training and technical assistance to:
 - public housing authorities and housing providers
 - state Medicaid, disability, aging and behavioral health agencies
 - the aging and disability networks
 - homeless services organizations and networks
 - health care systems and providers

Federal funding



- Just before the December 3rd deadline, Congress passed legislation to continue funding the government through February 18th. The legislation continues annual appropriations for all government programs at last fiscal year's levels and adds \$7 billion of funding to support Afghan refugee resettlement, specifically:
 - \$1.3 billion for the Office of Refugee Resettlement at ACF/HHS
 - \$4.3 billion for the Defense Department to care for evacuees on military bases
 - \$1.3 billion for the State Department
 - \$147 million for the Department of Homeland Security
 - \$8 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

State / Local



- State revenue update – As reported by the PA Independent Fiscal Office, year-to-date state revenue collections have exceeded expectations by over \$1 billion due to increased sales tax collections.
- The 2022 County Budget was approved by County Council on November 30th totaling \$991 million in operating funds.
- The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program ([LIHWAP](#)) was created by Congress during the pandemic, modeled after the Low Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP), to assist families experiencing hardships with their drinking water and wastewater bills. Pennsylvania is planning to launch the program in early 2022 and is not accepting applications yet.



Active Solicitations

Active Solicitations



RFP for Recovery Housing

- Due Date: 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, February 11, 2022

RFP for Information Technology Support and Professional Services

- Due Date: 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, January 28, 2022

RFQ for Student Assistance Program (SAP) Providers

- Due Date: 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, January 21, 2022

RFP for the Design, Launch and Coordination of a Countywide Juvenile Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative

- Due Date: 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, January 5, 2022

[**DHS Solicitations Webpage**](#)



Juvenile Justice Diversion

**Co-Conveners of the Black Girls Equity Alliance,
Juvenile Justice Workgroup:**

- **Sara Goodkind, University of Pittsburgh**
 - **Kimberly Booth, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas**
- Samantha Murphy, DHS Resource Services Manager**



Juvenile Justice Diversion

Goals:

To reduce the number of racial disparities seen in juvenile justice referrals

To advance a culture of restorative justice within schools and communities

General themes:

Work collaboratively with DHS and stakeholders involved with the Black Girls Equity Alliance to research, plan and design the approach and launch of the Initiative.

Operate as the countywide, centralized “intake” entity for diversion referrals from school staff, community law enforcement and other stakeholders.

Foster collaborative relationships and changes in policy/practice with human services, school districts, community law enforcement and other stakeholders.

Collect and analyze relevant data to understand and share insights and outcomes from the design, launch and operation of the Initiative



Letter of Support Request Process

Hilary Marcella

Letter of Support



What is a “Letter of Support?”

- Letters of support are used to indicate to a grantor or other external entity that DHS supports a proposal.
- DHS sometimes provides letters of support on behalf of its community partners and contracted providers.

Please note: Letters of support referenced here exclude those required by OMHSAS for behavioral health provider licensure changes or waivers, which will continue to follow existing processes through the DHS Office of Behavioral Health.

Letter of Support



How can I request one?

- Requestors should submit all requests using this [new request form](#).
 - This can be found on the [Doing Business with DHS webpage](#) under “Forms”.
- Requestors should provide a draft letter.
 - Please use the template linked on the [Doing Business with DHS webpage](#).
- DHS will evaluate all requests according to whether:
 - The requestor has an existing relationship with DHS and is in good standing.
 - The requestor and their proposal align with DHS mission and values.
 - The proposal addresses a demonstrated community need.
- DHS cannot guarantee processing of requests in under 10 business days.



COVID-19/ COVID-19 Vaccinations

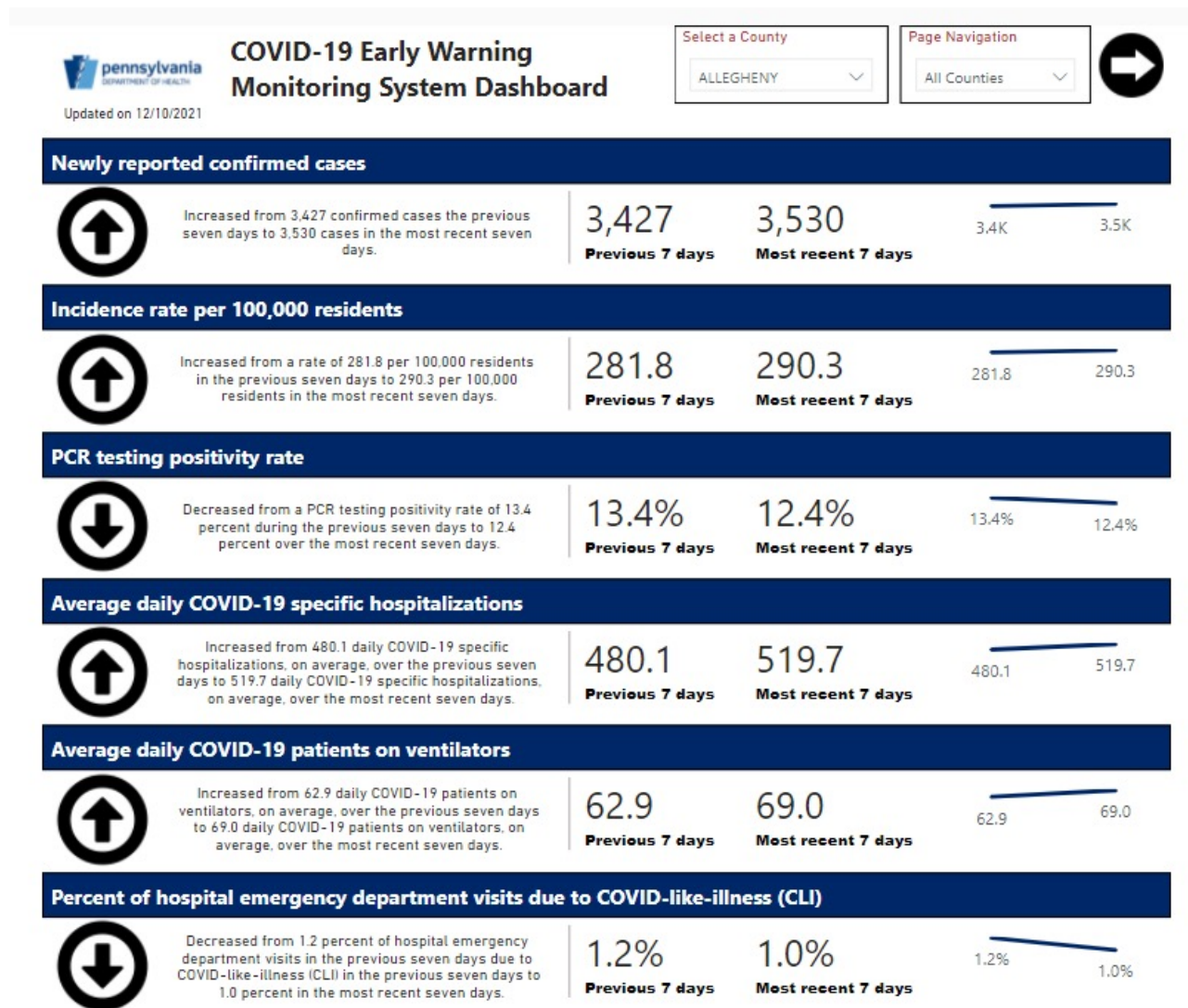
Dr. Debra Bogen

COVID Trends

Compares this week (December 3rd – 9th) to previous week (November 26th – December 2nd). Data is updated every Friday.

	% change from last week to this week
Newly reported cases	3%
Incidence rate per 100,000	3%
Positivity rate	-7%
Ave. daily hospitalizations	8%
Ave. daily patients on ventilators	10%
% ED visits due to CLI	-17%

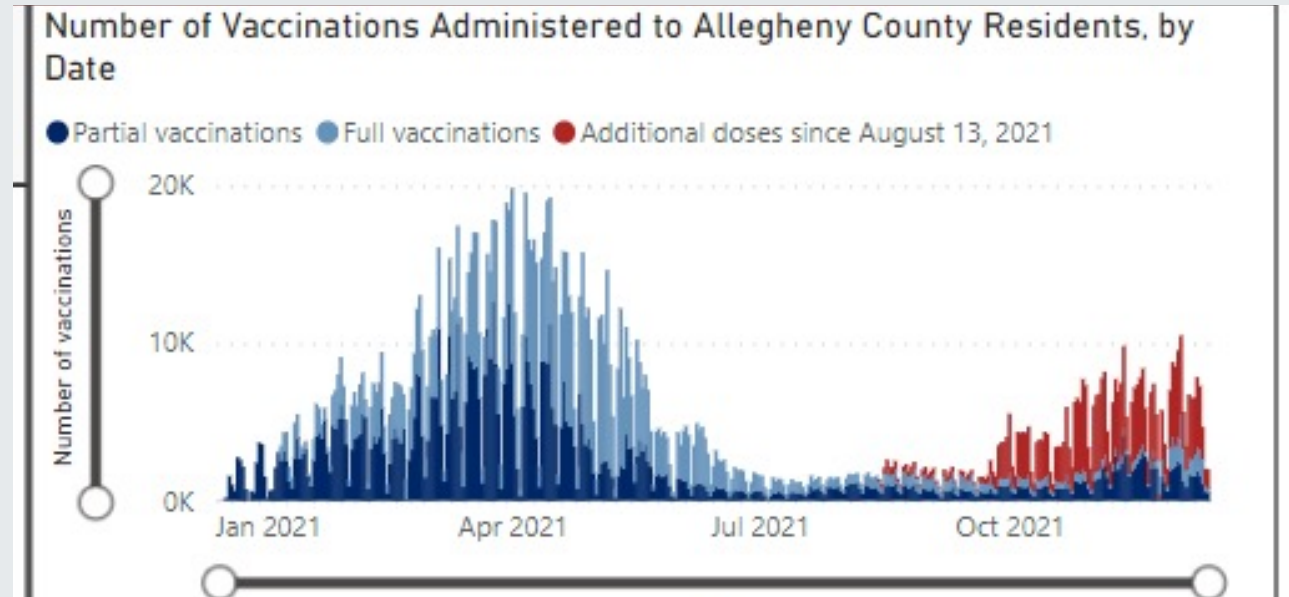
PA state's early warning system dashboard
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>.



Allegheny County Vaccinations



- **77.3%** of Allegheny residents have at least one dose and **66.7%** are fully vaccinated
- Since August, there have been **258,131** ‘**booster**’ shots administered





Next Meeting

1/27/22

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting notices and reminders will come from the staff of the Office of Equity and Engagement.

Here is the link to sign up to receive those notices:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Uvw6IMX/ProviderBriefings>

Or email us at DHS-OEE@AlleghenyCounty.us

Key Contacts



Questions for the Allegheny County Health Department

- <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>

Questions for DHS

- 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)

Key DHS staff

- Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us
- Contract inquiries: Jennifer.Wernert@alleghenycounty.us or Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us

United Way 2-1-1

- For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services available.