



PA Unites Against COVID

Getting PA Vaccinated Together – Resource Guide

May 2021



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Getting PA
vaccinated
together

The Department of Health
is working to expand
access to the vaccine

Now **we need your help**
to inform and change
attitudes so everyone can
reunite with friends and
loved ones and get back
to normal life



OVERCOMING REPRODUCTION- LINKED VACCINE HESITANCY

Communicating with the Public



PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | PA Unites Resources

PA Unites Against COVID is Pennsylvania's marketing campaign that educates the public about COVID-19 safety and vaccination efforts. The campaign includes a weekly newsletter, informational one-pagers, posters, social media graphics, and additional information. Materials have already been translated into multiple languages. The campaign website (www.pa.gov/covid) is updated frequently with new materials and information.

Sign up for the weekly PA Unites newsletter and find past newsletters in English and Spanish [here](#).

Additionally, updates can be found on Twitter from Dr. Johnson's Twitter account [@paphysgen](https://twitter.com/paphysgen).





PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | PA Unites Resources

Vaccine Facts Half-sheet – This one-page informational sheet shares facts about vaccine safety and where Pennsylvanians can find a vaccine provider. [Link](#)

How to Talk to Friends & Family About COVID-19 Vaccines – This two-page document provides guidance on how to speak to friends and family who may be hesitant or skeptical about getting the vaccine. It encourages the user to keep an open-mind when speaking with others and links to resources that could be useful in supplying others with additional information. [Link](#)

Vaccine Safety FAQs – These FAQs address common concerns about vaccine safety, including whether the vaccine will give you COVID-19, information about the vaccine approval process, and expected side effects from receiving the vaccine. [Link](#)



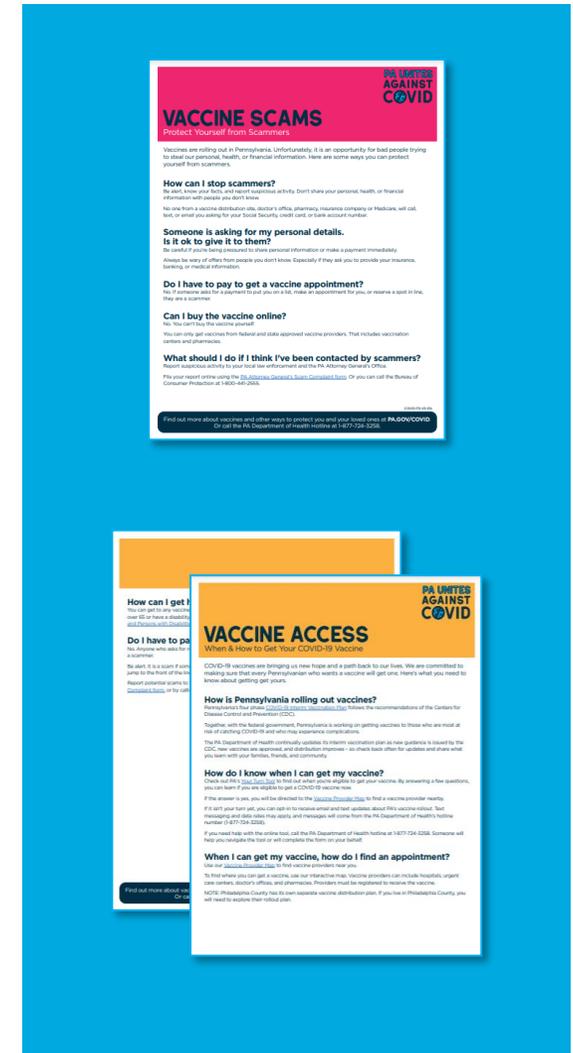


PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | PA Unites Resources

Vaccine Scams FAQs – These FAQs contain information related to COVID-19 vaccine scams, including what type of information patient should share with providers, what to expect when signing up for a vaccine, and what to do if you think that if someone believes they are a scam victim. [Link](#)

Vaccine Access FAQs – These FAQs contain information related to access to the COVID-19 vaccine, with information about where you can find providers administering the vaccine, and resources to help you travel to receive your vaccine. [Link](#)

An order form for printed and/or translated materials can be found on the PA Unites Against COVID website: [Link](#)





PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | Other Resources

COVID-19 AND PREGNANCY
The data there much yet about COVID-19 and how the virus may affect fertility, pregnancy, or the children that result and the global pandemic of COVID-19 is unclear and we have more information. ASRM recommends that you avoid starting new fertility treatment unless it is an emergency (such as if you need chemotherapy in the next few weeks).

RISK OF DISEASE vs RISK OF VACCINATION

COVID-19 DISEASE Pregnancy Risks (Real)

- Increased rates of:
 - Hospitalization
 - ICU admission
 - Medical ventilation
- Possible increased risk of:
 - Preeclampsia
 - Thrombotic events
 - Spontaneous abortion
- Risk to fetus from maternal fever

COVID-19 VACCINE Pregnancy Risks (Theoretical)

- Risk to fetus from maternal fever

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INFERTILITY PATIENTS AND COVID-19

COVID-19 AND PREGNANCY
The data there much yet about COVID-19 and how the virus may affect fertility, pregnancy, or the children that result and the global pandemic of COVID-19 is unclear and we have more information. ASRM recommends that you avoid starting new fertility treatment unless it is an emergency (such as if you need chemotherapy in the next few weeks).

IF YOU HAVEN'T STARTED YOUR TREATMENT CYCLE YET
For new ASRM recommends not starting new fertility treatment. If possible, more specifically, this is not the time to have procedures, such as hysteroscopy or IVF, or to start treatments like intrathecal insemination or IVF. However, women with an urgent need to preserve their fertility, such as those with a surgery or medical treatment planned that may cause infertility may still start treatment.

IF YOU HAVE STARTED YOUR TREATMENT CYCLE
If you or your doctor are already taking fertility medications as part of an IVF cycle, you may finish your current cycle and freeze your eggs and/or embryos for future transfer. You should wait to begin new cycles until the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has improved or we know more. If when possible, ASRM recommends having your office visits by telehealth or secure telemedicine (called telehealth or telemedicine), for example, you can start your evaluation or start a treatment plan with your doctor using telehealth.

SAFETY OF STORED EGGS AND EMBRYOS IS A PRIORITY
It is not known whether cross-contamination can happen between frozen samples, so ASRM recommends freezing samples from patients with COVID-19 in samples from any patient who tests positive for an infectious disease.

TRAVEL CONCERNS
Non-essential travel is not recommended and, in many cases not possible, especially to high impacted areas. If you are working with a donor or surrogate/gestational carrier who is not where you are, make a plan now on how to address this.

TELEHEALTH AND FERTILITY CARE
When possible, ASRM recommends having your office visits by telehealth or secure telemedicine (called telehealth or telemedicine), for example, you can start your evaluation or start a treatment plan with your doctor using telehealth.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING
Infertility care, the uncertainty of a pandemic, the need for social distancing, and a delay or interruption in your treatment can each be stressful and added together, may feel overwhelming. Take steps to ensure you are taking care of your emotional and physical wellbeing by eating well, doing exercise, and connecting with your friends and colleagues, even if it is virtually. You may need more emotional support during this time and your physician can assist you in finding a mental health professional to help. You can also find one using the "FIND A PROVIDER" link on www.asrmpractice.org. You're not alone.

Recommendations from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine for patients considering or undergoing fertility treatment. 3/21/2020

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine created pregnancy and fertility tear sheets [here](#) and [here](#)

COVID-19 and Pregnancy 3 Steps to Stay Safe

- 1. Know the facts**
 - COVID-19 can spread between people who are in close contact with one another within about 6 feet.
 - Some people with COVID-19 may have no symptoms.
 - Current reports suggest that pregnant women have a higher risk for more severe illness from COVID-19 than nonpregnant women.
- 2. Slow the spread**
 - Wear a mask or cloth face covering over your nose and mouth while in public.
 - Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
 - Limit contact with other people as much as possible.
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from other people if you need to go out.
- 3. Talk with your ob-gyn**
 - Prevented and postponed care: Your visit schedule may change, or you may have some visits over the phone or with a live-video video call on your computer. Before an in-person visit, tell your ob-gyn if you think you may have COVID-19 or contact with someone who has it.
 - Your birth plan: In most cases, the way you plan to give birth does not need to change. And the safest place for you to give birth is a hospital or accredited birth center.
 - Water policies: You may not be able to have as many visitors or your checkups on days when you are both under COVID-19 screening.

Learn more www.asrm.org/COVID-Pregnancy

ACOG

Frequently Asked Questions Vaccine Safety During Pregnancy

How do vaccines work?
Vaccines train the immune system to attack specific viruses and bacteria. The immune system is an important part of keeping you healthy. When you get a vaccine, it helps your immune system learn to fight off the virus or bacteria before it can cause illness. ASRM recommends that you get the recommended vaccines during your pregnancy.

How do I know which vaccines I need?
The CDC recommends that all pregnant women receive vaccines for the flu and pertussis (whooping cough) during pregnancy. Other vaccines may be recommended during pregnancy, such as the Tdap vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Your ob-gyn can help you decide which vaccines you need based on your health, the health of your fetus, and the health of the community.

Which vaccines are safe during pregnancy?
It is safe to get the flu, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine during pregnancy. Other vaccines may be recommended during pregnancy, such as the Tdap vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Your ob-gyn can help you decide which vaccines you need based on your health, the health of your fetus, and the health of the community.

Are there vaccines that should not be given during pregnancy?
Certain vaccines should not be given to pregnant women because they contain live, attenuated viruses. These include the MMR vaccine, the live attenuated zoster vaccine, and the live attenuated polio vaccine. However, the MMR vaccine is safe to give during pregnancy to both you and your fetus.

Are vaccines safe for me and my baby?
The vaccines are safe for both of you. In fact, vaccines are one of the most important things that you can do to protect your health and your baby's health. ASRM recommends that you get the recommended vaccines during pregnancy to protect you and your fetus.

How are vaccines approved?
Vaccines are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after a thorough review. Before a vaccine is approved, it must go through several steps, including testing in healthy people and pregnant women. Your ob-gyn can help you decide which vaccines you need based on your health, the health of your fetus, and the health of the community.

What happens after a vaccine is given?
Once a vaccine is given, it takes time for your immune system to learn to fight off the virus or bacteria. This process is called the immune response. Your ob-gyn can help you decide which vaccines you need based on your health, the health of your fetus, and the health of the community.

How are vaccines given during pregnancy?
Vaccines are given by injection into the muscle. Your ob-gyn can help you decide which vaccines you need based on your health, the health of your fetus, and the health of the community.

Is it safe to get a vaccine with tetanus?
Yes, it is safe to get a vaccine with tetanus. Tetanus is a serious disease that can be prevented with a vaccine. Your ob-gyn can help you decide which vaccines you need based on your health, the health of your fetus, and the health of the community.

The American College of OBGYNs prepared information on COVID risks and vaccine safety during pregnancy [here](#) and [here](#)



PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | Other Resources

From the Dept. of Health and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Your Turn eligibility tool to determine a nearby location to receive a vaccine: [Link](#)

PA COVID Vaccine Provider Map to locate providers throughout the Commonwealth: [Link](#)

PA Department of Health FAQs for providers: [Link](#)

PA Department of Health FAQs on COVID vaccine for general public: [Link](#)

PA Dept. of Health Vaccination Plan: [Link](#)

From national organizations

Vaccine PSA from UPMC: [Link](#)

HHS COVID Public Education Campaign: [Link](#)

CDC on COVID vaccine safety for pregnancy: [Link](#)

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists COVID information page: [Link](#)

American Society of Reproductive Medicine COVID resources: [Link](#)

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Information for Women & Families: [Link](#)

Every Mother Counts General Information on COVID, Pregnancy and Childbirth: [Link](#)



PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | Sample Messaging

Key concerns and barriers

- Safety of the vaccine (affect on fertility or fetal health)
- “Wait and see”



Key messages

- Thousands of pregnant women have already received the vaccine and there have been no reported issues
- Pregnant women are at higher risk for severe COVID illness, and the benefits of the vaccine are better than the real danger of getting the virus
- There is no evidence that the vaccines cause infertility
- The vaccines do not affect your genes or DNA
- When you get vaccinated, the antibodies made by your body can be passed through breastmilk and help protect your child from the virus

- Credibility (misinformation/ disinformation/ lack of confidence in what is available)



- Seek trusted sources for information about the vaccine (e.g., your PCP, OBGYN)

PROVIDER PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering for equity initiative



PARTNERING WITH A PROVIDER | Equity Initiatives

Community organizers can partner with providers to host a vaccination event to increase vaccination rates in your community through improved access

You can find the providers who have recently participated in vaccinations [here](#)

Detailed checklists for organizing one of these events with a provider can be found on the next page





PARTNERING WITH A PROVIDER | Equity Initiatives Checklist

Share the necessary information on the request directly with DOH

- Event details: **Location & Date(s)** for the events
- Registered COVID-19 vaccine **provider information**
 - Name
 - VFC pins of the provider that is receiving the vaccine & Clinic ID of the provider administering (might be different in some cases)
 - Transportation details for the vaccine if the location of the clinic is different from where the vaccines are initially being delivered
- **Number of incremental vaccines required** for the effort
 - Number of vaccines requested for the equity initiative specifically that is above and beyond what the provider is currently regularly requesting for vaccine allocation on a weekly basis (e.g., if the provider usually requests 1000 vaccines a week but will request 1200 the following week for an equity initiative, then the incremental amount is 200)





PARTNERING WITH A PROVIDER | Equity Initiatives Checklist

Share the necessary information on the request directly with DOH

- Share by **Thursday 9am** at the very latest for allocations for the following week (Tuesday through the following Monday)
- Vaccine type requested
 - Confirm capability to store the relevant vaccine type and confirm ability to schedule second dose of Moderna/Pfizer
 - **Shipment times are uncertain. Providers may not receive their weekly allocation until Monday or Tuesday the following week after requesting.**





PARTNERING WITH A PROVIDER | Equity Initiatives Checklist

Include vaccine allocation requests in the weekly provider vaccine request form submitted by providers

Providers receive a form each week to request their vaccine allocation for the following week

- Providers **submit the request form by Tuesdays** for the following week
- In the form, providers can share the vaccine allocations they are requesting for an equity initiative (i.e., the same number you are sharing above).
- Providers should **list their partnership with your organization explicitly/by name** so that the allocation team is aware when they are making allocation decisions

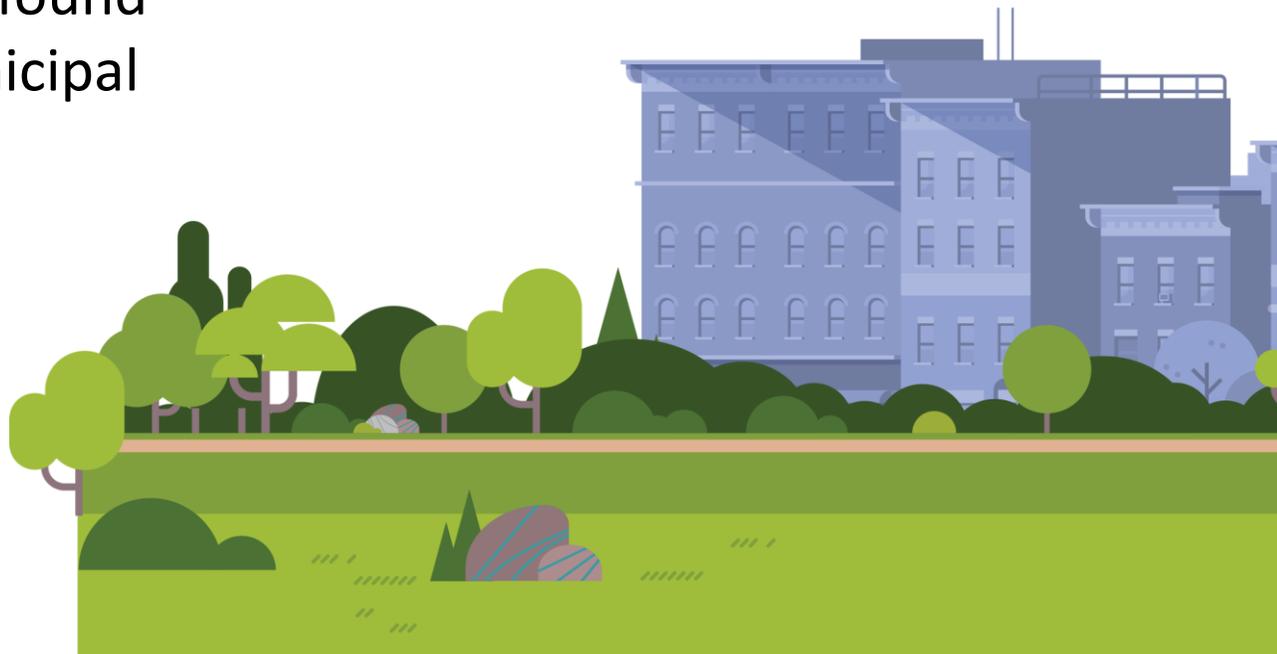


Local resources to partner with your communities

- [Allegheny County](#)
- [Bucks County](#)
- [Chester County](#)
- [Erie County](#)
- [Montgomery County](#)
- City of [Philadelphia](#)

Several essential resources are coordinated through municipal and county websites. The full list can be found [here](#)

Additional resources and information can be found on County and Municipal Health Department websites





Thank you