



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Health Department Provides COVID-19 Update

**PITTSBURGH** – As there is not a regularly-scheduled COVID-19 briefing today—and considering the increase in cases this week—the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) issues the following update from Dr. Debra Bogen, ACHD Director:

“Today’s 48-hour update includes 70 cases from Monday and 55 cases from Tuesday, for a two-day total of 125. All but four of these tests were collected in the past week. Although these numbers remain significantly lower than during the spring surge, it is a notable increase from the 10 to 15 daily cases in June and early July, and a stark reminder that this virus is not done with us.

“These numbers are concerning, but not surprising. Give the virus an opening, and it will enter. Unfortunately, we are giving it an opening, not only here, but across the country. The delta variant in combination with many unvaccinated people has resulted in this new wave of cases. The delta variant is significantly more contagious than other forms of the virus and is more likely to cause severe disease. In other parts of the country, the delta variant has resulted in an increase in hospitalizations; it is too soon to know if that will happen here. However, we can prevent it if more of our friends and loved ones get vaccinated. We have ample vaccine, as do our healthcare partners.

“As for precautions, I’ll again ask everyone to follow [CDC recommendations](#). And for those who are vaccinated, please note: Although the vaccines are highly protective for severe disease caused by the delta variant, they are less protective for mild disease.

“Our case investigations continue to trace new infections to gatherings, often indoors and with little social distancing or mask-wearing. Recent examples include a private charter plane flight, a crowded boat cruise, a public game of bingo, sporting events, Fourth of July parties and a music recording session.

“I ask anyone who tests positive and is then contacted by one of our case investigators to answer their questions and follow their instructions so we can contain the spread of the virus. This has been and will continue to be an essential way to contain the spread of infectious diseases. We can only do this if you tell us where you might have been exposed and who else might be at risk. Unfortunately, we have only been able to reach 50 percent of cases recently. This hampers our ability to reduce the spread of infection and makes it difficult for us to track vital data, such as the percentage of cases who are vaccinated or not. We understand that the public wants this information—and we want to provide it—but please understand that we do not have immediate access to data showing who among the new cases was vaccinated or not. We must rely on case investigation and state and federal databases.

“If you or anyone you know have any questions about the vaccines, please visit: <https://alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx> or call 2-1-1. To get help with a vaccine appointment, call 2-1-1, Thank you. Be safe and be kind.”

The Health Department’s next COVID-19 briefing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28.

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