



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Monday, October 5, 2026

Media Contact: Neil Ruhland, PA DOH, ra-dhpressoffice@pa.gov
Brandon Cwalina, PA DHS, ra-pwdhspresoffice@pa.gov

**MEDIA ADVISORY — TODAY IN PITTSBURGH — Shapiro
Administration Officials to Receive Updated COVID-19 Vaccine,
Highlight How Pennsylvanians Can Stay Healthy During Respiratory
Virus Season**

Pittsburgh, PA – Today, **Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen** and **Secretary of Human Services Dr. Val Arkoosh** will visit **Hilltop Pharmacy** in Pittsburgh to showcase the wide availability of the updated COVID-19 vaccine as respiratory virus season begins. During the event, Secretaries Bogen and Arkoosh will receive their annual COVID-19 vaccines.

To ensure Pennsylvanians continue to have access to vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccine, **Governor Josh Shapiro** signed [Executive Order 2025-02](#) to establish a state-based safety net to protect children's access to vaccines, require all state agencies to align policies with trusted medical experts, and create a Vaccine Education Workgroup to strengthen public communication and combat misinformation.

Updated COVID-19 vaccines are formulated to protect against current circulating variants and are recommended by trusted medical societies for individuals six months and older. [Most health insurance plans cover the updated vaccine](#) with no out-of-pocket cost. Uninsured or underinsured Pennsylvanians can access vaccines through [local State Health Centers](#), [county and municipal health departments](#) and [Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHCs\)](#).

WHO: Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen
Secretary of Human Services Dr. Val Arkoosh
Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato
Allegheny County Health Department Director Dr. Iulia Vann
Alex Rothey, PharmD, Hilltop Pharmacy

WHEN: TODAY, Monday, October 5, 1:00 PM

WHERE: Hilltop Pharmacy
818 East Warrington Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

VISUALS: **Secretary Bogen** and **Secretary Arkoosh** will receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine as part of the event.

MEDIA RSVP: Media interested in attending must RSVP with the name of the reporter and photojournalist to ra-dhpressoffice@pa.gov.