



Live Well, Work Well

Employee Health Benefits Bulletin

June 2021

Perth Amboy Public Schools

COVID-19 Vaccine News

Timely Tip: Be sure to check out our newest online tool, *Benefits Online*. You now have 24/7 access to your health plan information from your own computer; get there one of two ways:

- 1) Go the *Benefits and Payroll webpage*; click on the *Benefits Online* link.
- 2) Go directly to the website [Home Page](#).

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COVID-19 vaccinations are a major tool to help us return to a pre-pandemic normal. There is a lot of vaccine news to be aware of; here is some of the latest from the [CDC](#).

COVID-19 vaccine guidance for those with allergies. Be aware of [allergic reactions](#) to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Severe allergic reactions, or anaphylaxis, may require treatment with epinephrine or a hospital visit.

An **immediate allergic reaction** happens within four hours of vaccination and could include symptoms such as hives, swelling, or respiratory distress like wheezing. If you are allergic to an ingredient in a COVID-19 vaccine, talk with your doctor for guidance.

COVID-19 vaccine guidance for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Pregnant women are more likely to become severely ill with COVID-19 than those who are not. If you are pregnant, you can receive a vaccine;

discuss the following with your doctor if you are uncertain:

- What is your likelihood of virus exposure?
- What are the potential risks?
- Vaccine efficacy, side effects, etc.

At this time, there is no data about the safety of the vaccine for lactating women or the effects on breastfed infants; however, mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk. Visit the [CDC website](#) for details.

COVID-19 vaccine guidance for children. Children can be infected with COVID-19 and can become severely ill. The [CDC](#) currently recommends the Pfizer-BioNTech

vaccine for those aged 12 and older.

Questions about the vaccine? Check out these Aetna [FAQs](#). Talk with your doctor. Or visit [cdc.com](#) and our [Benefits Online](#) health plan website to stay current on COVID-19 vaccine news.



Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease of the brain that gradually destroys the ability to remember, reason, imagine, and learn. It is often difficult to diagnose because the early signs closely resemble natural signs of aging.

There are 100 billion nerve cells in the brain. Each of these cells joins with others to form "communication networks." Alzheimer's disease prevents some cells from operating correctly, although scientists are unsure why. As the damage spreads, the cells cannot function and eventually die.

During normal aging, most people's brains develop plaques (deposits of a protein fragment) and tangles (fibers of another protein). It has been discovered during autopsy that people suffering from Alzheimer's have many more plaques and tangles; this may play a role in blocking nerve cell communication. The Alzheimer's Association has identified 10 warning signs to watch for:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Difficulty understanding visual images or spatial relationships
- Trouble speaking or writing
- Misplacing things
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work/social settings
- Changes in mood or personality

Learn more at alz.org.



Healthy Recipe

Pasta Primavera

Ingredients

- 1 cup noodles (uncooked)
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 cups mixed vegetables, such as kohlrabi, sugar snap peas, carrots, or asparagus (chopped)
- 1 cup tomatoes (chopped)
- 1 Tbsp. margarine
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp. black pepper
- 3 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese

Preparation

1. Cook the noodles according to package directions.
2. While cooking, heat oil in skillet.
3. Add vegetables and saute until tender; stir constantly.
4. Add tomatoes and saute 2 additional minutes.
5. Add margarine and cooked noodles to skillet, toss with vegetables.
6. Add seasoning and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese; serve.

National Health Observances

June

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Alzheimer's Association
alz.org

National Aphasia Awareness Month

National Aphasia Association
aphasia.org

July

International Group B Strep Awareness Month

Group B Strep International
groupbstrepinternational.org

August

Psoriasis Awareness Month

National Psoriasis Foundation
psoriasis.org