



988

A Direct Link for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Support

Pennsylvanians will soon have a new, easier way to connect to mental or behavioral health crisis services. Dialing 988 will connect callers directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

How will 988 help?



Trained professionals are waiting to listen

Trained 988 counselors located at 13 PA crisis call centers can immediately provide phone-based support and/or connections to local resources. If needed, the counselor can:

- Activate a mobile mental health crisis team that will arrive on site.
- Provide therapeutic interventions.
- Make referrals for outpatient services or transportation for further evaluation.



Phone-based Intervention has proven highly effective

Between 80-90 percent of calls are resolved through conversations with call center staff, without further intervention.



988 keeps lines open for anyone experiencing crisis

By directing cases to 988 when a mental or behavioral health crisis isn't life threatening, the response provided by public services, such as law enforcement and EMS, can be reserved for situations in which lives are endangered.

When will 988 be implemented?

July 16, 2022 — People who call, text, or chat with 988 will be connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The existing Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will remain available.

Who can use the new number?

988 can be used by anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental or behavioral health, and/or substance use crisis — no matter where they are or where they live. Lifeline services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no cost to the caller.



76,000

Number of 2020 calls received by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by Pennsylvania Residents

What happens when you call 988?



The caller dials 988



The caller is routed to a local 988 call center

If not answered within 60 seconds, the call is routed to one of PA's three regional 988 call centers



Press "1" to reach the Veteran Crisis Line



Press "2" to reach the Spanish sub-network

If a regional call center is unavailable, the call is routed to the national backup network





Council Meeting COVID Update July 27, 2022

The Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that there have been 7362 positive cases reported in Chester since the start of the pandemic. Delaware County is currently experiencing a medium level of COVID-19 transmissions. According to the CDC, people may choose to mask at any time. Those at high risk for severe illness should talk to their healthcare provider about whether they need to wear a mask and take other precautions. Also, those with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. The Delaware County Health Department encourages the public to follow the CDC's recommendations for universal masking indoors regardless of vaccination status.

There have been 125 positive cases reported in July. This number is compared to the 183 cases reported in June, 157 cases reported in May, 54 cases reported in April, and 21 cases reported in March. We encourage you to remain vigilant as you engage in your summer festivities. We are still in a pandemic. 6 Chester City Hall employees have tested positive for COVID-19 since June. Just a reminder, the Health Department, along with the Human Resources Department does provide COVID-19 PCR testing for all employees of Chester City Hall, every Monday at 10:00 am.

The Chester City Hall Health Department will start providing free COVID-19 rapid test kits on the days of the city council meetings. On July 13th, we gave away 76 test kits. We will be giving away test kits today, July 27, from 10:00 am-1:00 pm in the lobby.

20,249 or 67% of Chester residents have received at least one vaccine. For youth, the numbers are much lower. Only 1871 or 38% of youth 10-18 have received at least one vaccine. We encourage you to get your children vaccinated before the beginning of the school year. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get their COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, everyone 5 years and older should also get a COVID-19 booster.

COVID-19 vaccinations & boosters are available on August 1, August 15, & August 29 from 11:00-5:00 at the Delaware County Health Center located at 151 W. 5th St. They offer walk-ins, but you are encouraged to schedule an appointment by calling (484) 276-2100.

Everest Urgent Care's hours for operations are Monday-Friday 9:00-6:30 & Saturday 9:00-5:30. They offer walk-in COVID PCR testing every day & walk-in vaccines & booster shots on Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00-6:30. If you need to schedule an appointment for the vaccine, please call (484) 480-4700. Finally, you can always go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) for the most up-to-date appointment availability for vaccines and boosters.

The Health Department has been quite busy this summer.

- In June, the department partnered with the Juneteenth committee last month and provided 9 health vendors for the festival. We create and circulate a monthly newsletter with all of the latest information regarding COVID-19. If anyone is interested in the newsletter for July, it is available on the tables downstairs.
- The health department will participate in the monthly zoom meetings of the Chester Environmental Partnership and we will also meet with the Health Equity Teams monthly to get all of the updated information on COVID-19.
- Last week, during the heat wave, we gave away 150 fans to seniors and vulnerable residents. The fans were provided by Keystone First and the Foundation for Delaware County. Stormwater and the Health Partners will provide another 100 fans.
- In August, we will resume our COVID Coalition meetings with the health providers from the surrounding areas, to discuss COVID-19 and what we can do to increase our vaccination rate and keep our residents safe.

Finally, the Biden administration's new 988 suicide and crisis prevention hotline is now available. 988 offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress. That could be:

- Thoughts of suicide
- Mental health or substance use crisis, or
- Any other kind of emotional distress

People can call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org for themselves or if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

Submitted by: Ayanna King
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