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April 17, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

The Morning News eliminates a common complaint – too many emails – while still delivering up-to-date information on PSATS and local government issues. Members will receive ONE email from PSATS that includes latest news & COVID-19 updates, videos – look for TVN and the Question of the Week every Tuesday and Thursday – along with legislative and policy updates, grant and funding opportunities, and announcements about upcoming PSATS training.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Latest News

[Townships Exempt From Business Face Mask Mandate](#)

In consultation with the governor's office, it is PSATS' understanding that because townships are exempt from the governor's business closure order, they are not mandated to follow the new protocols that are being directed at life-sustaining businesses.

PSATS strongly urges townships to implement these common-sense CDC practices where applicable, if they are not doing so already, to keep employees and their residents safe. Unless an employee is a first responder or health care worker, cloth masks made in accordance with Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control guidance are sufficient, including those made or obtained by an employee.

[Click here](#) to view the new order, which takes effect Sunday, April 19, at 8 p.m.

[President Outlines Guidance for Reopening Economy](#)

President Donald Trump has released the administration's Guidance for Opening Up America Again. The proposed phased approach provides guidance to governors to decide on a statewide or county-by-county basis how to reopen the economy gradually. [Read full story](#).

[Wolf to Release PA Plan](#)

Today, Gov. Tom Wolf will address Pennsylvanians at 2 p.m. about his Plan for PA. This plan will include his vision for Pennsylvania as the commonwealth begins to move through the COVID-19 crisis and focus on recovery. You can view his remarks at 2 p.m. today by [clicking here](#).

[IRS Seeks Help](#)

The IRS is seeking assistance in identifying all eligible recipients for the Economic Impact Payments/CARES Act. There was particular care and concern for non-filers, especially those with dependents for whom this critical assistance (\$500 per dependent) could mean meals and sustenance in the coming days and weeks. To view posters and info, [click here](#).

[Department of Health Provides Access to More Data on COVID-19](#)

Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine has announced that the Department of Health is now providing access to more refined data on COVID-19 cases on its website. Data is now available by county: for negative tests, cases and deaths associated with nursing homes/personal care homes as well as case counts and deaths to date by sex and race. Data is also available for case counts by region. To view the data, which is updated daily, [click here](#).

Legislative and Policy



Paycheck Protection Program Funding Stalls in Congress

Democrats and Republicans have been unable to come to an agreement on legislation to add more funding to a small business loan program, which ran out of funds on Thursday April 16.

Heart and Lung Act Expansion Legislation Before the Senate

SB 1106 which would amend the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law (*Heart and Lung Act*) to require compensation to a covered employee who in the course of their duties contracts or is diagnosed with COVID-19 or who is subject to quarantine resulting from exposure to COVID-19 was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now before the Senate.

The Association has concerns with the increased costs associated with SB 1106. Staff will continue to work on this legislation with the members of the Senate.

Learn

[Virtual Flagger Training](#)

This instructor-led, virtual class, flagger training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes).



PFESI Web Series- Session 5- Mergers and Consolidations Best Practices

This session will review the benefits and challenges regarding Fire & Emergency Services mergers. Rob will review the steps in the process of starting the merger process including establishing a steering committee and involved all stakeholders. He will review successful case studies from across Pennsylvania.



PFESI Web Series- Session 6- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention in 2020

This session will look at what is being done successfully around the state to recruit and retain members, what efforts are not working, and when is the time to look at alternative delivery systems. The session will look at opportunities for support from the FASP R&R program, the FASP local level grant program, and FASP R&R consulting assistance to local organizations.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>



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