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April 27, 2020

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

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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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## Latest News

### Statistics

Pennsylvania now has over **41,000 confirmed coronavirus cases**. There were 1,396 new cases [reported](#) Saturday and 1,116 [reported](#) Sunday. This represents a decrease of about 200 new cases reported each of the last two days.

Pennsylvania communities have **lost 1,550 lives** to the virus, including **58 new deaths** over the weekend. More than 950 of the commonwealth's deaths have occurred in long-term care facilities.

More detailed PA COVID-19 data, including [trend animations](#), a [zip code-level map](#), and a full breakdown of cases by age, gender and race, is available at the Department of Health's website [here](#).

[FEMA Grants Available for Firefighter PPE](#)

Starting tomorrow, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program will begin accepting applications for \$100 million in funding to purchase personal protective equipment and supplies. The deadline for applications is May 15. [Read full story.](#)

### **Wolf Administration Elaborates on Metrics for Reopening**

In addition to the target goal of less than 50 new confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population over the previous 14 days, the Wolf Administration has confirmed that additional metrics will need to be met to reopen the state by region. This includes enough testing for symptomatic individuals and high-risk populations, as well as health care personnel and first responders; robust case investigation and contact tracing to identify cluster outbreaks and issue isolation and quarantine orders; and identification of high-risk settings, such as nursing homes, and assurance that facilities have adequate safeguards in place.

### **[Grants Available for Homeless Assistance](#)**

The federal CARES Act provides additional funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus among individuals and families who are homeless or receive homeless assistance. The state Department of Community and Economic Development will provide \$19.9 million in Emergency Solutions Grant funds for this program, and applications will be accepted until June 1, 2020. [Read full story.](#)

### **[Good News on School Property Taxes](#)**

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced more than \$13.2 billion in emergency relief funds are available to State and local education agencies to support continued learning for K-12 students whose educations have been disrupted by the coronavirus. [Read more here.](#)

### **[DCED Distributing CARES Funding to CDBG Entitlement Communities](#)**

The state Department of Community and Economic Development is distributing federal CARES funding as supplemental community development dollars for entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) communities. These funds are to be used for prevention, preparation, and response to the coronavirus. To see the distribution list for the entitlement communities for the \$24.69 million being distributed, [click here.](#)

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## **Legislation & Policy**



**The House will convene for Session today, April 27.**

Watch session live [here](#).

**The Senate will be in session Tuesday, April 28 and Wednesday April 29.**

Watch session live [here](#).

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## Learn

### [Don't Let Your Stormwater BMP Turn Into a Weed Trap - 4/29/20](#)

This webinar is designed to provide participants with information on how to maintain native plants commonly used in bioretention basins, vegetated swales, and riparian buffers. Topics covered include common plant growth characteristics, required maintenance during the first three years after installation, common maintenance challenges, and proposed solutions. [Click here](#) to register.



### [LTAP Stop Signs and Intersection Traffic Control - 4/28/20 - Virtual Class](#)

Part of the LTAP's new series of courses on signing and safety, this course focuses on STOP signs and other controls that improve safety at unsignalized intersections. The course will also offer content on common STOP intersection problems such as unwarranted STOP signs and multi-way STOP intersections. [Click here](#) to register.



**DON'T FORGET - Solicitors Spring Virtual Seminar - May 4 & 11, 2020**

The PSATS Spring Solicitors Seminar will now be offered online so that you can still get caught up on municipal developments and earn CLEs (PSATS is an approved PACLE distance learning provider). [Click here](#) to register.



**Basic "Virtual" Training for Secretaries and Administrators - May 5 & 12, 2020**

This virtual training class will be offered in two sessions. This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know, right from the comfort of your desk. Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement. [Click here](#) to register.



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

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