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April 9, 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



3rd PSATS Town Hall Today at Noon

DON'T FORGET. PSATS is hosting its third web-based Town Hall for township officials today at noon. [Click here](#) to register.

Wolf Signs Order Authorizing PEMA to Seize, Redistribute Health Care Resources

Among myriad actions to support Pennsylvania's health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Tom Wolf today signed an order to provide critical aid to hospitals with targeted personal protective equipment and supply distribution. [Read full story.](#)

DOH Launches Hospital Preparedness Dashboard

The state Department of Health has launched a new hospital preparedness dashboard that provides county-level information, including the number of available beds and ventilators in use at facilities across the state and in each county. The dashboard also provides an overview of the capacity of the state's entire health care system.

Brady, Shapiro Warn Against Teleconference Hacking

Scott W. Brady, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro have warned against hacking teleconferences during the coronavirus pandemic. The Western Pennsylvania COVID-19 Task Force will investigate, disrupt, and prosecute such hacking. [Read full story.](#)

Commonwealth Updates Stay-at-Home Guidance to Address Religious Gatherings

Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine updated the Commonwealth's Stay-at-Home Guidance to address religious gatherings. While religious institutions are exempt from the Stay-at-Home order, religious leaders are encouraged to find alternatives to in-person gatherings and to avoid endangering their congregants. The guidance further states that people should not gather in religious buildings or homes for services or celebrations until the Stay-at-Home order is lifted.

DCED Clarifies Short-Term Residential Rentals Are Not Life-Sustaining

The state Department of Community and Economic Development has clarified that short-term rentals of any residential property are not authorized as life-sustaining. Hotels and motels may continue to operate. [Read full story.](#)

Tomorrow is the LAST Day to Fill Out NATaT Survey Request

Townships have until noon TOMORROW to complete the National Association of Towns and Townships [survey](#). This will help define the municipal needs from the federal government.

Legislation and Policy



As Washington DC finalizes the Covid-4 package, local governments should contact their members of congress to support including local government aid for communities with populations under 500,000 as well as including tax credits options for local governments for keeping people on payroll, the same benefit previously extended to the private sector.

PSATS sent a letter ([click here](#)) to members of the State House urging their immediate attention to passage of SB 841 which provides 3 key local government needs in the pandemic, language for remote meetings, permit extensions and local options for property tax collections.

Learn

[Ethics Act 101/Boot Camp Virtual Classroom - 4/13/20](#)

In this session, Scott Coburn of PSATS will review all aspects of the Ethics Act, including conflicts of interest and other restricted activities, voting conflicts, statements of financial interest, resources to rely upon, and much more.



[PennDOT Municipal Services 101/ Boot Camp Virtual Classroom - 4/13/20](#)

In this session, Randy Albert, the Municipal Services Supervisor for PennDOT District 2, will review the many services that PennDOT makes available to municipalities. This includes the liquid fuels program (and tips to remain in compliance), technical assistance programs, including maintenance troubleshooting, training and funding opportunities.



[PFESI Web Series- Session 3- Transforming Your Fire/EMS System Using Grateful Dead Business Model - 4/13/20](#)

This program will provide a different perspective towards improving internal organizational performance, as well as developing and building relationships on a local, regional and national level.



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

Township Video News



PSATS staff explains the steps townships need to take to share their annual audit results with the public. *Please note: This TVN segment was recorded in advance.*



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