



May 11, 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

### **[Thirteen Southwest, Southcentral Counties Move to "Yellow" This Friday](#)**

On Friday, Gov. Tom Wolf announced that 13 counties in the southwest and southcentral regions of the commonwealth will move to "yellow" status under his phased reopening plan effective May 15. This includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. This is in addition to the 24 northcentral and northwest counties that are currently in the yellow phase. [Read full story.](#)

### **[Nearly a Dozen PA Counties Notify Governor of Intent to Re-open May 15](#)**

Adams, Beaver, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, Schuylkill and York County Commissioners have notified the Commonwealth of their interest to begin recovery prior to the commonwealth's announcements but be governed by CDC guidelines. The Governor's Emergency Declaration provided the basis for the restrictions set in place during the mitigation phase by the Health Secretary and the Governor. Title 35 provides for a State Recovery Task Force made up of executive, legislative and judicial agencies as well as stakeholders from the business community, labor, local government

and others. As many areas of the state enter the recovery phase, expect a partnership to evolve after potential court challenges between counties and the Commonwealth. PSATS position, since the beginning, has reflected the governor's distinction that local government maintains autonomy to continue to provide essential services. It is believed municipalities within these counties could choose between the Governor's declaration and the Commissioners declaration, as Harrisburg City has announced they would stay red. We have continued to provide relevant information in an unbiased fashion to keep you informed of your options.

### **[DCED Releases Information about Approved Business Exemptions](#)**

On Friday, the state Department of Community and Economic Development released information about the 6,066 approved exemptions provided to businesses that could offer life-sustaining services or conduct life-sustaining activities across the commonwealth. [Click here](#) for a list of exemptions by county and business.

### **Townships Have Until May 20 to Extend Discount, Penalty for Real Estate Taxes**

Townships are reminded that [Act 15 of 2020](#) authorizes local governments to extend the discount period for local property taxes and waive all fees and penalties associated with them as long as the taxes are paid in full by December 31, 2020. Townships that choose to exercise this voluntary option must act to pass a resolution and send it to the elected tax collector by May 20. [Click here](#) for a sample resolution on the property tax fees.

### **[PennDOT Begins Limited Service at "Yellow" Driver's License Centers; More to Open Soon](#)**

The state Department of Transportation has opened several driver's license centers in yellow counties with restrictions set by the commonwealth. More centers in the "yellow" zone are expected to open soon. Note that limited services will be available, and numerous COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place. [Read full story](#).

### **[Dentists May Provide Care Under New Guidance](#)**

On Friday, the state Department of Health released revised dental care guidance with protocols that dental providers must follow for all procedures, including those outlined by the CDC and OSHA. For more information, [click here](#).

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## Legislative & Policy



### [Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 5/15/20](#)

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). This course has been designed to meet the PennDOT Publication 408 flagger training requirements mandated for all flaggers in Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) to register



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



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