



May 12, 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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## Township Video News



Did Gov. Tom Wolf step on Pennsylvanian's civil liberties during the COVID-19 pandemic? Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman weighs in on this and other issues, including whether you'll get hit with a tax increase as a result of the statewide shut-down.

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## Latest News

### [Wolf Chastises Counties, Businesses That Plan to Reopen Early](#)

Yesterday, Gov. Tom Wolf chastised county officials that have notified the commonwealth of their intent to begin recovery in accordance with CDC guidelines prior to an official state order to move to yellow. Wolf criticized business owners as well that have reopened or are in the process of reopening prior to state authorization. [Read full story.](#)

### [Pennsylvania Reports Lowest Positive Daily Cases Since March](#)

Yesterday, the state Department of Health confirmed an additional 543 positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the statewide total to 57,154. This is the lowest daily number reported since March. In addition, 24 new deaths were reported, for a total of 3,731. [Read full story.](#)

### [Child Care Guidance Provided to Facilities Reopening in Yellow Counties](#)

The state Department of Human Services has told child care providers reopening in yellow phase counties that they must be prepared to implement guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which outlines the steps providers should take to keep child care spaces safe and properly monitor staff and children for potential exposure to COVID-19. [Click here](#) for the CDC guidance.

### [PennDOT Reopens More Rest Areas](#)

The state Department of Transportation has announced that it will reopen indoor facilities at three additional rest areas. One is on Interstate 70 westbound in Fulton County, and two are on Interstate 80, eastbound and westbound, in Columbia County. For more information, [click here](#).

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## Legislation & Policy



The Senate will convene for voting session today, May 12th. The House will be in non-voting session today.

### **Request for IFO Study on Municipal Finances**

On May 11th, PSATS Executive Director David Sanko sent a [letter](#) to the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) supporting a request by the four local government committee chairs of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, for an analysis

of the impact of COVID-19 on county and municipal finances and services. An impact study would provide some valuable insight into what townships will need to financially plan for immediately and into the next fiscal year.

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## Learn

### **[WEBINAR WEDNESDAY: Three Parks, Same Grant Program, Different Styles - May 13, 2020](#)**

Three central Pennsylvania municipalities submitted applications to the same grant program for significantly different municipal parks. This webinar analyzes the steps each community took to successfully secure funding despite the uniqueness of their projects. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



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

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