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May 14, 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.

Township Video News



The Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act mandates paid sick leave for employees who contract COVID-19, but will townships be reimbursed? We explain what the law does – and doesn't – do.

Latest News

All CDL Employers Must Register with the FMCSA Clearinghouse

Does your township employ CDL drivers? If so, both the township and those drivers must register with the FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. [Click here](#) and go to #2 for instructions on how employers and drivers register with the Clearinghouse. If you have questions on this matter, contact the PSATS CDL Program at cdl@psats.org.



2020 Census: Monitor Your Community's Progress

Do you know how well your township residents are responding to the census? Statewide, the response rate for the 2020 Census is closing in on 62% in Pennsylvania, but you can also keep track of how your specific township is doing on the Census Bureau website [here](#). [Watch this 2-minute video](#) for more details on how to find your community's response rate. PSATS urges township officials to continue reminding residents to complete their survey now and avoid the possibility of a visit from a census taker later.

[PA Health Reports Lower Case Rates, Hospitalizations](#)

Yesterday, the state Department of Health reported the third day in a row of less than 1,000 new positive cases of COVID-19 statewide despite increased testing availability. [Read full story.](#)

[PSP Reports Enforcement Numbers, Focuses on Education](#)

On Wednesday, the Pennsylvania State Police said that troopers would continue encouraging compliance with red phase restrictions, rather than issuing citations. If citations are warranted, troopers will write them and leave the decision to prosecute up to district attorneys. Troopers have the option to forward information about non-compliant businesses to the state departments that oversee their licensing and permits. [Read full story.](#)

[Federal Funds Approved for Pennsylvania Schools](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf announced that the U.S. Department of Education has approved Pennsylvania's application for \$523.8 million in one-time emergency funds to help schools respond to COVID-19 impacts. Schools will need to apply for their share of the 90 percent

of funds that will be sent as direct grants, which can be used for a wide range of purposes, including technology and sanitization. The state Department of Education will use the remainder of the funds for support initiatives, such as remote learning. To see how much your school district will receive, [click here](#).

Legislation & Policy



The House will convene for voting session today, May 14th. The Senate is in recess at the call of the chair.

Senate passes Junior firefighter legislation

On May 13th, the Senate unanimously passed HB 1522. This legislation would amend the Child Labor Act to eliminate the requirement that Junior Firefighters complete Department of Conservation & Natural Resources training before they can engage in firefighting activities. HB 1522 has passed both the House and the Senate and will be sent to the Governor.

Senate Passes Legislation to Reopen Real Estate Activities; Legal Services

On May 13th, the Senate passed HB 2412. This legislation would require the secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development to issue a waiver to the Governor's COVID-19 Business Closure Order for all real estate related activities and legal services that can adhere to social distancing practices and other mitigation measures defined by the Centers for Disease Control to protect workers and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Additionally, and until the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020 and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency, is terminated or expires the following would apply: (1) a municipality or municipal authority that requires a use and occupancy certificate, or any other similar certificate or certification as a condition of a property transfer, shall be presumed to have issued a full and unconditional permit without requiring an inspection of the property. (2) taxing authorities and public utilities would be required to provide alternative means for residential home buyers or title insurers to determine the current status of tax payments or overdue utility obligations.

HB 2412 has passed the House and the Senate and will now go to the House for concurrence on Senate amendments.

Senate passes legislation to allow counties to create reopening plan; regulatory tolling; COVID-19 task force

SB 327 would provide county governments the option to develop and implement individual plans to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and safely reopen. CDC and state Department of Health employee safety guidelines would remain in effect. This legislation would also require any regulation not finally approved or disapproved to be suspended in place until 90 days after the emergency order is lifted. Finally, SB 327 would create a COVID-19 cost and recovery task force. SB 327 has passed the Senate and is before the House for concurrence of Senate amendments.

Learn

[RESCHEDULED: Flagger Training - Virtual Class - NOW MAY 22](#)

Due to a scheduling conflict, the virtual Flagger Training for tomorrow, May 15 has been rescheduled for Friday, May 22. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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