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May 18, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

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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## Learn

**On the first and third Monday of each month, PSATS will be providing a full list of virtual classes and webinars to view.**

### Virtual Classes

[Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 5/22/20](#)

[Strategic Planning for Fire Service Operations in Townships - May 27, 2020](#)

[2020 Spring Emergency Management Virtual Forum - June 1, 2, & 3, 2020](#)

### Webinars

[Public Private Partnerships & Township Identity - May 20, 2020](#)

[Municipal Responsibilities on State Roads - May 27, 2020](#)

[The Pros and Cons of Selling Water/Sewer Assets - June 3, 2020](#)

[Is Your Township Prepared for More De Facto Takings Claims - June 4, 2020](#)

[Creating a Traffic Impact Fee - In Plain Speak! - June 10, 2020](#)

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

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## Latest News

### [A Dozen Additional Counties Will Move to “Yellow” This Friday](#)

On Friday, Gov. Tom Wolf announced that a dozen additional counties will move to “yellow” status under his phased reopening plan **effective May 22**. This is in addition to the 37 counties that are currently in the yellow phase. The following counties will move to yellow on Friday: Adams, Beaver, Carbon, Columbia, Cumberland, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, and York. [Read full story](#).

### [Federal SAFER Grant Application Period Extended; Cost Share Waived](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extended the deadline for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) Program until May 27 at 5 p.m. [Read full story](#).

### [PA Extending UC Benefits for Additional 13 Weeks](#)

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced the launch of Pennsylvania’s Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program to provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits to those who exhaust their regular unemployment compensation. [Read full story](#).

### [National Cemeteries Limit Groups for Memorial Day](#)

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announced that all 142 national cemeteries will be open throughout Memorial Day weekend and families and friends are welcome to place flowers or individual flags at veterans’ gravesites. [Read full story](#).

### **PennDOT Sends Out FHWA Email in Error**

On Friday, the state Department of Transportation sent an email to municipalities and

counties regarding the FHWA Form 536. This was done in error and townships should ignore this email. The FHWA Form 536 report for 2019 will be collected this summer and notice will be provided at that time.

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## Legislation & Policy



The House is scheduled to return to session today, May 18th. The Senate canceled session for May 18, 19, & 20th and remains at the call of the president pro tempore.

### **Federal HEROES Bill Passes House, Includes Stimulus for Local Governments**

On Friday, the House passed a federal stimulus plan that would provide \$3 trillion in coronavirus relief. In addition to another round of direct cash payments to Americans, the proposal would provide aid to state and local governments and assistance for essential front-line workers and extend unemployment benefits. Much of the local government aid is targeted to counties and larger municipalities and includes lost revenues.

The HEROES Act would also allow local governments to receive tax credits to cover the cost of providing the paid sick and paid family leave programs mandated by the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act and would make lost revenue an eligible use of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Finally, the HEROES Act would also make permanent certain tax benefits to volunteer first responders, a long-standing priority of PSATS and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT).

The Senate is not expected to consider the bill at this time because both President Trump and the Senate would prefer to wait to see the impact of the existing relief packages. It is largely viewed as a starting point for negotiations with the Senate.

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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

4855 Woodland Drive

Enola, PA 17025

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