



May 8, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

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We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Latest News

[First Counties Move to Yellow Phase; 13 Counties to Be Announced in Round 2](#)

Today marks another major move forward in reopening Pennsylvania. Most counties in the northcentral and northwest regions of the commonwealth will move to “yellow” status effective today. This includes Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, Venango, and Warren counties.

While Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine extended the stay-at-home order for the remaining counties until June 4, expect a 2 p.m. announcement today detailing the second group of counties that can move to the yellow phase. It is widely expected that the announcement will include most counties in the southwest, as well as a few in the southcentral region of the state. Watch for an “urgent alert” from PSATS this afternoon notifying you of which 13 counties made the list. [Read full story](#).

[PSATS, Local Government Associations Request CARES Funds for Members](#)

PSATS sent a joint letter to Gov. Tom Wolf, along with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, the Pennsylvania

Association of Township Commissioners, and the Pennsylvania Municipal League, urging an equitable share of the federal \$4.9 billion CARES Act dollars that PA received be distributed to counties and municipalities, as the vast majority were not eligible for direct federal payments. (Direct payments were reserved for communities over 500,000 population.)

The letter thanked the governor for recognizing local governments as partners during this time and pointed out that counties and municipalities, like the state, are seeing their operating revenues plummet while continuing to provide, and even curtail, critical public services and protections. To view the letter, [click here](#).

[Rite Aid Expanding Free COVID-19 Testing](#)

As part of its partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rite Aid is significantly expanding its COVID-19 testing efforts to 15 no-charge testing sites statewide, most of which will operate through its stores' drive-through windows. Testing will be available to adults even if they do not exhibit any symptoms of the virus.

Testing will begin May 11. Preregistration is required. For more information, including free testing locations, [click here](#).

[Shapiro Joins Wolf to Announce Homeowner and Rental Relief](#)

Attorney General Josh Shapiro joined Gov. Tom Wolf as he signed an executive order that protects Pennsylvanians from foreclosures or evictions through July 10. The action builds on a Pennsylvania Supreme Court order that closed court eviction proceedings until May 11 and ensures that no renter or homeowner will be removed from their home for more than 60 days.

Both Wolf and Shapiro emphasized that renters and homeowners are still required to continue making monthly payments and that if they are struggling to make their payments, they should contact their landlord or mortgage servicer immediately. For more information, [click here](#).

[U.S. Supreme Court Denies Petition to Overturn Business Closure Order](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has denied a petition by several businesses and a candidate for the Pa. House of Representatives to overturn Gov. Tom Wolf's business closure order. The petition was previously denied by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

[Got illegal dumping sites? Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful can help.](#)

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, a statewide nonprofit, is asking Pennsylvania residents to use this link to report illegal dumping and/or graffiti as part of their Illegal Dump Free program. They also offer a security camera loan program to curb illegal dumping by exposing those who commit the crime. [Read full story](#).

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