



June 4, 2020

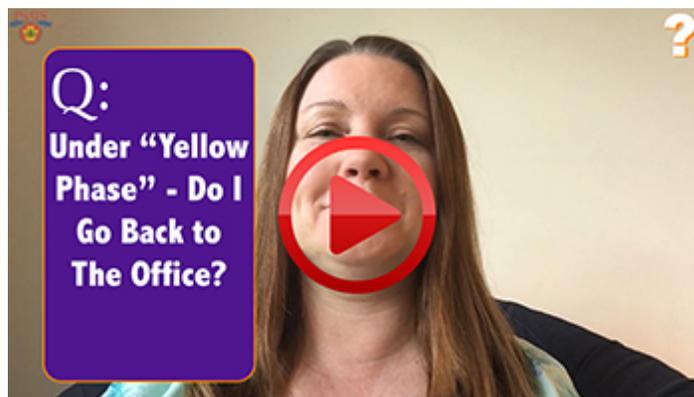
Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

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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## Township Video News



As more counties start to re-open, township employees are wondering when they'll need to transition from their home office back to the municipal building. PSATS staff explains the yellow-phase options for municipalities. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on other Questions of the Week. (1:00)

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## Latest News

### **[PSATS Town Hall Scheduled Today at 3 p.m. on State Budget, Guidance for Yellow and Green Phases](#)**

REMINDER: To help answer your questions about the recently enacted five-month state budget and the governor's guidance for the yellow and green reopening phases, PSATS is hosting a virtual Town Hall Meeting today, June 4, at 3 p.m. Staff will provide an update on the budget and important legislation before the General Assembly, as well as discuss the latest state guidance for both the yellow and green reopening phases.

At PSATS' sixth online Town Hall, participants will have the opportunity to submit questions before and during the meeting, which is limited to the first 500 registrants and is free.

You can access the town hall online or by telephone. To register, please [click here](#).

### **[Wolf Renews Disaster Declaration; Stay-at-Home Order Ends Today](#)**

Gov. Tom Wolf today renewed the 90-day disaster declaration he originally signed on March 6. The declaration was set to expire today. In addition, Wolf will allow the stay-at-home order to expire at 11:59 p.m. tonight for the final counties remaining in the red phase. To view the declaration, [click here](#).

"As phased reopening continues and all 67 counties are either in the yellow or green phase by Friday, we will no longer have a stay-at-home order in effect," Gov. Wolf said. "I remind Pennsylvanians that yellow means caution, and even in the green phase, everyone needs to take precautions to keep themselves and their communities healthy."

### **[Thoughts on Safety](#)**

When a traffic light turns yellow as you approach, there are two ways to react.

Foolish drivers floor the gas to "beat the light" in their desire to get ahead of everyone else. Wise drivers slow down and stop, knowing they could hurt someone, or themselves, if they don't.

[Click here](#) to read a writer's take in pandemic similarities.

### **[LCB Temporarily Expedites Extensions of Licensed Premises for Outdoor Serving Areas](#)**

To facilitate outdoor dining and service, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board has enacted an expedited approval process for licensees wishing to temporarily extend their licensed premises to include outdoor areas. [Read full story](#).

### **Commonwealth Outlines Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Schools**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has announced that elementary and secondary schools in the state's yellow and green phases may resume in-person instruction and activities beginning July 1 under a phased reopening approach that first requires schools to develop health and safety plans based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state Department of Health (DOH).

[Read full story.](#)

### **Department of Health Discusses Criteria for Green, Hitting May Testing Goals**

State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine discussed at a press conference the criteria for going from yellow to green, which includes decreasing numbers of new cases, contact tracing, and hospital capacity. If rates of new cases are holding steady or increasing, a county will not go to green. A scorecard to explain the criteria is expected to be released later this week. [Read full story.](#)

### **White House Continues National Guard Funding; OPM Releases Facilities Guide**

President Donald Trump has extended orders for a 100 percent federal cost-share for the Governor's Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to facilitate economic recovery through August 21. [Read full story.](#)

### **PSP Reports COVID-19 Enforcement Numbers, Crime Statistics and Safer Roads**

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) is reporting statewide enforcement numbers for actions taken May 26-31 to enforce the commonwealth's COVID-19 orders. [Read full story.](#)

### **Census 2020: How is Pennsylvania doing?**

With the census in full swing, the commonwealth continues to best the national average with 63.5% of Pennsylvanians returning their survey compared to 60.5% nationally. Congratulations to the following townships who make up 8 of the top 10 response rates among Pa. communities (as of June 1):

- #2 – N. Londonderry Twp., Lebanon Co. 84.8%
- #3 – Hanover Twp., Northampton Co. 84.6%
- #5 – Baldwin Twp., Allegheny Co. 84.4%
- #6 – Lowhill Twp., Lehigh Co. 84.2%
- #7 – Rockland Twp., Berks Co. 83.7%
- #8 – Bethel Twp., Delaware Co. 83.6%
- #9 – S. Heidelberg Twp., Berks Co. 83.4%
- #10 (tie) – Brecknock Twp., Berks Co. & Clay Twp., Lancaster Co., 83.3%

The following counties remain below the 50% response rate: Potter Co. & Susquehanna Co. 43%; Wayne Co. 42.6%; Monroe Co. 41.6%; Cameron Co. 36.4%; Pike Co. 33.7%;

Sullivan Co. 18%; Forest Co. 17.5%. Please continue to urge your residents to fill out their census ASAP!

Want to know where your township stands with its census response rate? Check it out [here](#).

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## Learn

### [Roadmaster Roundtable - Virtual - 06/05/2020](#)

Virtual Conference Workshop - During this perennial conference favorite, roadmasters, road crew members, and township officials will get a chance to question our panel of experts about everything related to roads. [Click here](#) to register.



### [Vendor Oversight: Controls All Townships Must Implement - Virtual - 6/11/20](#)

Virtual Conference Workshop - Does your procurement process ensure only qualified vendors are hired? Will your vendors safely and securely handle the confidential data and information you provide them? Are you sure you're not giving favorable treatment to vendors who have relationships with township employees? Are you sure you haven't hired a fictitious vendor intent on committing fraud? This session will answer these questions and more to ensure your township has adequate vendor oversight. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



**[Employee Discipline: A Toolkit For Township Supervisors - Virtual - 6/11/20](#)**

Virtual Conference Workshop - Attend this session to learn the rules of the road for public employee discipline and get practical advice on how to document and handle the disciplinary process. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



**[Funding Municipal Stormwater Management In PA - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)**

Virtual Conference Workshop - This session will explore the emergence of stormwater fees and how they are determined. Lessons and successes will be discussed as participants work through exercises that will help them develop fee programs. The presenters will also provide strategies to build constituent support. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



**[Using Checklists To Work Smarter - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)**

Virtual Conference Workshop - Have you ever wished someone would hand you checklists to make your administrative life easier? This workshop is the answer to your prayers. Attendees will receive several sample checklists for such tasks as taking minutes, developing and implementing budgets, adopting ordinances and resolutions, following the Sunshine Law, reviewing land development applications, and other topics. You can use these checklists to assess and improve your own administrative procedures. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.

**[Webinar - Today's Liability Issues: From COVID-19 To Sexual Assault To Government Immunity - 6/18/20](#)**

This program, by municipal attorney Tony Sherr, will examine the impact of COVID-19 on tort liability issues facing political subdivisions and will highlight specific situations where they could face tort liability. He will also review the potential ramifications for political subdivisions of the recent amendment to the Immunity Act applying to sexual assaults and provide an overview of the Political Subdivision Torts Claim Act. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

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



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