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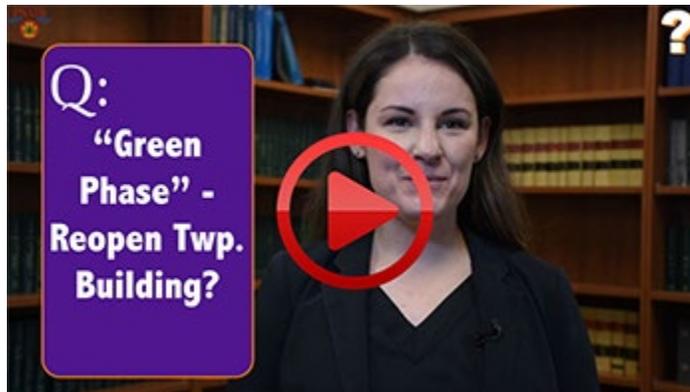
July 9, 2020

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.

Township Video News



COVID-19 has created challenges for townships, some of which we'll be addressing in this month's Questions of the Week. Today, we explain what you can do to promote a safe environment for visitors at the municipal building. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:26)

Latest News

PSATS Offers Clarification on State Quarantine

Last week, the commonwealth began urging all Pennsylvania residents who travel in states with high numbers of COVID-19 cases to quarantine for 14 days upon their return. Those states include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.

While not mandatory, it is recommended that townships consider implementing this recommendation for employees. Any policy needs to provide a clear expectation for employees on how long the quarantine will be, how leave will be handled (paid or unpaid), and if employees will be permitted to work from home during any quarantine period. Because there is no existing federal or state quarantine order, employees are not eligible for Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) leave when engaging in a voluntary quarantine.

Townships could consider accepting negative COVID-19 test results as an alternative to quarantine or to reduce the quarantine period. [Click here](#) to find out about testing locations in Pennsylvania. However, note that waiting times for test results are beginning to increase due to heavy testing demand.

Townships should ask their solicitors for input on proposed policies. Note that PSATS is seeking additional clarification from the governor's office on this issue.

Resolution to Terminate Emergency Declaration Sent to Wolf

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling last week, the General Assembly has presented the concurrent resolution to end Gov. Tom Wolf's emergency declaration to the governor. It is expected that Wolf will veto the resolution and test the legislature's ability to override the veto.

New PA Cases, Hospitalizations of COVID-19 Rise

New positive COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania are rising. Allegheny County has seen a significant spike in new cases in the last week, as have several of the surrounding southwest counties.

The state Department of Health has noted significant positive COVID-19 cases among younger age groups, particularly 19- to 24-year-olds. In fact, Pennsylvania's southwest region saw positive cases in this age range jump from 5 percent to 28 percent in July. Meanwhile the southeast and northeast regions have increased from 5 and 6 percent,

respectively, to over 16 percent since the beginning of the month. The DOH also indicated some of the counts are a result of a previously unreported numbers.

In addition, the [number of current COVID-19 hospitalizations](#) in Pennsylvania have increased in the last week but remain well below the peak of spring activity. Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 increased by 2.6 percent since July 1, from 632 to 649. The number of patients on ventilators statewide dropped slightly since July 1, from 103 to 100.

The statewide case total has reached 92,148, with 6,812 deaths. Nursing homes and personal care facilities continue to be the bulk of the cases. 19.6 percent of total cases (18,060) are residents and 3,380 are employees of 727 nursing and personal care homes in 55 counties, while 4,663 deaths (*or 68.5 percent*) were residents in a nursing or personal care home. For further breakdowns on these numbers, including by county and nursing and personal care homes, [click here](#).

Legislation & Policy



The Senate remains at the call of the President Pro Tempore. The Senate recently added July 13, 14, and 15 as session days. The House was in session yesterday and is now at the call of the Speaker.

PSATS Urges Governor to Sign Police Reforms into Law

The Association recently sent a letter to Governor Wolf asking him to sign HB 1841 and HB 1910 into law. Both bills unanimously passed the House and the Senate.

HB 1841 would create a database to maintain records of law enforcement officers and would require an employer to disclose employment information to a law enforcement agency that is conducting a background investigation of an applicant.

HB 1910 would require the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) to train police officers to recognize and report suspected child abuse and would also require the MPOETC to develop training that includes annual instruction on the use of force, including deadly force; de-escalation and harm reduction techniques, training on interacting with individuals of diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds as well as

implicit bias training.

[Click here](#) to view the full letter from PSATS.

House Passes Township Code Legislation

On July 8th, the House passed HB 1582 by a vote of 197-4. HB 1582 would amend the Second Class Township code to provide townships that annually appoint a certified public accountant (CPA) to perform the township's annual financial audit the option of eliminating the township's board of auditors.

Further, for townships that utilize a CPA, but have supervisors that are also employees, this legislation would authorize the board of supervisors to adopt an ordinance establishing a salary schedule. This schedule would take effect after the next municipal election and could not be adjusted for six years. Future supervisor boards could restore the board of auditors. HB 1582 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Learn

E-Scooters, Mopeds, And E-Bikes: Micromobility Rising - Virtual - 07/10/2020

This virtual workshop will give you an overview of the micromobility tools that are growing in popularity (electric scooters, mopeds, electric bicycles, and hoverboards). A data-rich presentation will focus on a set of case studies relating to municipalities and how they used policies, permitting, infrastructure, and enforcement solutions to ensure a rational integration of micromobility into their municipality's transportation ecosystem. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



Protect Your Assets: Best Practices In Cash Management - Virtual - 7/16/20

This session will outline how to effectively manage cash and investments for your Township. Join Paul Robinson and Matt Conlin from PLGIT to review permitted investments and tips on creating an investment policy. They also will review best practices for striving to protect vital information related to township funds, as well as ways to seek to minimize fraud and the risk of cyber-crime. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.

Trust The Process: Land Development And Best Practices - Virtual - 7/16/20

This workshop will address hot topics in subdivision and land development with an emphasis on practical solutions to problem situations. The presenters will explore the relationship between the Municipalities Planning Code and local ordinances by focusing on processing land development applications, overseeing the development, handling dedication, and tackling stormwater management issues. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

PA 811 - Compliance Execution And New PUC Requirements - Virtual - 7/23/20

Attend this session to learn about changes to Pennsylvania's One Call Law and the impact this has on your township's compliance responsibilities. The presenters will explain the Alleged Violation Report (AVR) process and the renotification response requirement for facility owners. They'll also discuss tools to enhance communication and collaboration. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



Get The Dirt: Zoning, Subdivision & Land Development Basics - Virtual - 7/23/20

The effects of land use ordinances are evident everywhere you look. They shape the feel and look of our communities. This workshop will provide a great foundation for anyone new to land use matters and reinforce the basic principles for those with more experience. Beginning with the history of zoning in the U.S., the presenters will guide attendees in making informed decisions whether they're enacting a zoning amendment or approving a land development plan. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning 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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