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May 7, 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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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## Township Video News



With township employees working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, we explore a question that was bound to arise: Must the supervisors reimburse them for their internet service and other expenses? Also, click [here](#) to catch up on other Questions of the Week.

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## Latest News

### [Gov. Wolf Creates Commonwealth Civilian Coronavirus Corps](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf is creating the Commonwealth Civilian Coronavirus Corps, a public service initiative that will support efforts in the fall to increase testing and contact tracing and provide critical new job opportunities in the public health sector. The intent is to fund these positions with federal dollars. [Read full story.](#)

### [Gov. Wolf Signs Executive Order for Medical Immunity](#)

Also on Wednesday, Wolf signed an executive order protecting health care practitioners from liability for good-faith actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) for more information.

### [PA Labor and Industry Secretary Offers Reminder](#)

As parts of PA begin to re-open and others are called back to work, Commonwealth Labor & Industry Secretary Jerry Oleksiak said if workers refuse to return to a job, they will not be eligible for unemployment payments from the state or federal government. Labor & Industry reminds employers that they must file the “Refusal Suitable Work” form within 7 days of the employees’ refusal to return to work. This applies to all employers including townships. The form can be filed online and is available [here](#).

### [Commonwealth Offers Free N95 Decontamination for Healthcare Facilities, First Responders](#)

The commonwealth is offering free N95 respirator decontamination to health care facilities, first responders, and other eligible organizations that may be experiencing a shortage. The service, called the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System, was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and funded with federal dollars.

All health care facilities and emergency medical services may use this service. In addition, if experiencing a critical shortage of N95 respirators, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, hazardous materials units, public works, utility companies, and emergency management agencies may use this service.

An eligible organization that wishes to use the system should talk to their county emergency management coordinator. Registration is required, and the masks will be shipped. [Click here](#) for more information.

### [Some Liquor Stores to Reopen Tomorrow in Yellow Zone](#)

Beginning tomorrow, some state liquor stores in yellow zones will begin to offer limited in-

store public access. Limited online orders and curbside pickup will also continue at other participating stores. To find out which stores will be reopening, hours, and rules for in-store access, [click here](#).

### **[Pa. State Police Updates Enforcement Totals for COVID-19 Orders](#)**

The Pennsylvania State Police data has been updated for actions taken through May 3 against non-life-sustaining businesses that failed to comply with Gov. Tom Wolf's order closing their physical locations. The PSP has issued 312 warnings and 1 citation. [Read full story](#).

### **[Looking for Masks or Hand Sanitizer?](#)**

If townships are unable to procure PPE, the first stop should be at your County Emergency Management Office to make an "unmet needs request". If that is unsuccessful, townships that are looking for suppliers for various masks, thermometers, or hand sanitizer for their township can find contact information for Pennsylvania and U.S. businesses that are manufacturing these items through the state Department of Community and Economic Development's Business-2-Business (B2B) Interchange Directory. [Click here](#) to access the directory.

### **[2020 Census: How is your township doing?](#)**

The response rate for the 2020 Census is now at nearly 60% in Pennsylvania, but do you know how well the residents in your township are responding? Statewide, response rates as of this week range from a high of 69.7% in Lancaster County to a low of 16.4% in Forest County. PSATS urges township officials in every county to remind their residents to complete their survey now and avoid the possibility of a visit from a census taker later. Townships can go online [here](#) to keep tabs on their local response rates.

### **[PennVEST Schedules Four Virtual Meetings on Clean Water Funding Opportunities](#)**

The PA Infrastructure Investment Authority announced it has scheduled four virtual public meetings on how PennVEST funding can help improve water quality in your community. The meetings are for municipal officials, conservation districts, private landowners, authority board members and staff, regulators, engineers, and others interested in water quality improvement funding. [Read full story](#).

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## **Legislation & Policy**



The House and Senate are both on a 12-hour call of the chair.

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## Learn

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

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