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August 13, 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



Better communication is the goal behind PSATS' effort to collect members' individual email addresses. There are other benefits, too. Watch our Question of the Week and find out what those are. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (2:09)

Latest News

[Wolf Administration Advises of Importance of Contact Tracing, Possible Scams](#)

The state Departments of Health and Aging today warned Pennsylvanians about contact tracing scams and emphasized the need to stay alert as COVID-19 remains a threat in our communities.

“Contact tracing is vital in the state’s efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, and we want Pennsylvanians to be confident that if they receive a call from a contact tracer, the call is legitimate,” Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said. “If someone is unsure and would like to verify if the caller does in fact work in contact tracing, they can call the state Department of Health at 1-877-PA HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) to verify.”

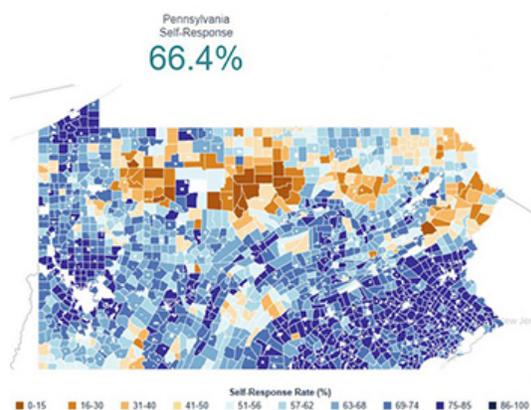
Within 24 hours of receiving a report of a positive test, trained public health staff interview the newly confirmed COVID-19 case to obtain a list of close contacts. Then contact tracers, both trained staff, and volunteers, reach out to those close contacts to educate, inform, and offer support. Methods used, after an initial phone call, may include phone calls, texts, emails, and mailings. Contact tracers will not say who exposed the individual in order to keep their information confidential. [Read full story.](#)

[Department of Agriculture Releases COVID-19 Restaurant Enforcement Numbers](#)

The state Department of Agriculture has released COVID-19 restaurant enforcement actions taken during the period of August 3-9. [Read full story.](#)

[State Police Liquor Control Officers Issue Violation Notices and Warnings](#)

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 3,552 licensed liquor establishments from Wednesday, August 4, through Tuesday, August 11, to ensure that businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements that include social distancing, masking, and other health and safety requirements of the Liquor Code. [Read full story.](#)



CENSUS 2020: How is Pennsylvania doing?

Now that the 2020 Census deadline has been moved up to September 30, it’s “all hands on deck” as the Census Bureau has been beefing up census taker visits, email messages, commercials, and social media posts to try to get everyone counted by the new target date.

As of this week, roughly 66.4% of Pennsylvanians had returned their census questionnaire, ranking it 17th among states with the highest response rates. Minnesota leads the nation at 72.6%. In Pennsylvania, communities in the northern tier and northeast corner continue to have the lowest participation with the following counties still below the 50% response rate: Susquehanna Co. 48.5%; Potter Co. 47.5%; Wayne Co. 46%; Cameron Co. 42%; Pike Co. 38.8%; Sullivan Co. 31%; and Forest Co. 26.2 %.

To find out how your township is doing, go to the [Census Bureau website](#) and in the parameters to the right of the map, select “Pennsylvania” and then click on “Town and Township” under “Geographies.”

Learn

[Trenchless Pipe Rehabilitation - What Are My Options? - Virtual - 08/14/2020](#)

Maintaining stormwater and sewer pipe infrastructure can be expensive. Trenchless pipe rehabilitation is an economical alternative to full replacement. During this workshop, the presenters will explore several options, including slip lining, cured in place pipe (CIPP), portland and geopolymer mortar spray lining, and invert repair with concrete or concrete cloth. Participants will break into groups to discuss the pros and cons of each technology and share solutions. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Flagger Training - 8/14/20 - Berks Co. \(P.M. Session\)](#)

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This class is eligible for 2 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.



Workers' Compensation And Volunteer Fire Companies - Virtual - 8/20/20

This session will focus on the unique workers' compensation coverage status of volunteer firefighters, including special fire police and junior firefighters. The presenters will also discuss the impact of the Presumption of Cancer Act (Act 46 of 2011) on the workers' compensation marketplace. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



Real Estate Tax Collection In Pennsylvania - Virtual - 8/20/20

This workshop will acquaint attendees with the Local Tax Collection Act of PA, pending legislation affecting local tax collectors and municipalities, and the relationships between municipalities and their tax collectors. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



Developing Your Township Budget - 8/27/20 - Westmoreland Co.

This class will provide proven and effective methods and techniques to help new and veteran township supervisors, secretaries, treasurers, managers, road masters and public works officials develop budgets that work. This course is eligible for 2.5 PMGA Administration Points. [Click here](#) to register.



Removing Barriers To Adaptive Reuse Of Older Buildings - Virtual - 8/27/20

Both zoning and building regulations can pose barriers to adaptive reuse of older buildings. This session will focus on those legislative barriers that are incompatible with your township's economic development goals and provide strategies for removing them. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Public And Private Partnerships Enhance Parks/Rec. Programs - Virtual - 8/27/20](#)

Today's recreation customers want a diverse range of facilities and programming. Most communities, however, cannot meet these needs on their own so some are opting to form public and private partnerships to enhance programming. This workshop will provide examples of how communities are using partnerships to increase offerings, resources, and audiences. Attendees will also learn how to form effective partnerships of their own. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[PSATS' Regional Forum - Bedford County - \(Virtual\) - 8/27/20](#)

In the PSATS (Virtual) Regional Forum – Bedford, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics from the comfort of your office or home. Among the topics to be covered include fire service challenges, best practices for maintaining dirt and gravel roads, how to stretch your township public works budget, post-COVID emergency management Q&A, the Right-to-Know Law, and construction code challenges. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. [Click here](#) to see FULL agenda and to register.

[PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series 7/30 - 12/17/2020](#)

These virtual QuickBooks sessions are a great opportunity to learn about specific ways to use QuickBooks to bring greater efficiency and value to your township. From using QuickBooks for budgeting and meeting reports to preparing for the township audit or year-end reporting, these classes will cover a wide variety of important QuickBooks functions. You can purchase the entire six-part series for \$150 for PSATS members* and \$200 for non-members.

All sessions will run from 2:00-3:30 pm and will be recorded so that you have a continuing



resource at your fingertips or if you cannot attend the live session. Each session is worth 1.5 PMGA Administration points.

[August 27 – “How to Use Customers and Classes for Grants and Reimbursables”](#)

[September 24 – “Budgets and QuickBooks”](#)

[October 29 – “Using QuickBooks for Meeting and Year-End Reports”](#)

[November 19 – “Getting Ready for the Township Audit”](#)

[December 17 – “Year-End Employee Functions”](#)

[Click here](#) for more details and to register.

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



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