November 19, 2020

**Revised State Mask Order Applies to Townships**

Townships should be aware that Pennsylvania’s revised mask order, which took effect November 17, applies to areas both inside and outside of local government facilities. There is an exception for “working alone,” which includes someone inside an office or inside a cubicle “with walls high enough to block the breathing zone of all people walking by, and the worker’s activity will not require anyone to come inside of the worker’s workspace.”

The order is a requirement, not a recommendation, and is an enforceable disease control measure authorized by the Disease Prevention and Control Law. To read yesterday’s article about the order, [click here](#). To read the Department of Health’s Frequently Asked Questions on the order, [click here](#).

**FDA Approves First COVID-19 Test for Home Self-Testing**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued an emergency use authorization for the first COVID-19 diagnostic self-testing at home kit that provides rapid results. The Lucira COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit is a single use, self-collected COVID-19 test that is currently authorized for prescription use only and health care providers will track, monitor, and report all test results. [Click here](#) for more.

**No Crowds for Groundhog Day**

The Groundhog Club has announced that due to COVID-19, no crowds will be allowed to attend the ceremonies on Gobbler’s Knob in Punxsutawney on Groundhog Day 2021. Instead, online celebrations are planned and Punxsutawney Phil’s prediction will be livestreamed. Hopefully, in 2021 Phil will predict an early spring AND the end of the pandemic!

**State Agencies Continue to Issue Covid Violation Notices**

**Pennsylvania State Police** - Officers issued 85 warnings and 26 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 568 licensed liquor establishments between Monday, November 9, through Sunday, November 15. That brings the total violation count to 318 over the last 138 days (2.3 per day statewide). To view a summary of the number of checks and warnings issued by enforcement officers since July 1, [click here](#) and scroll down.

**Pa. Department of Agriculture** - Between November 9 to 15 The Bureau of Food Safety performed 489 total inspections, 21 of which were complaint-driven and 12 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The bureau distributed 87 COVID-19 complaint-driven education letters and referred 19 COVID-19-related complaints to local and county health departments. No formal warning letters or citations were issued this week. A county-by-county breakdown can be found by [clicking here](#).