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November 16, 2020

Learn

Today's PSATS Morning News provides information on the seminars, virtual conference, in person classes, virtual classes and webinars that PSATS will be offering in November/December.

If you would like to view PSATS' educational offerings online, please go to learn.psats.org. For questions, please contact PSATS at 717-763-0930

Virtual Classroom & Seminars

[Strategic Planning For Fire Service Operations In Townships - Virtual - 11/18/20](#)

[Quickbooks - Getting Ready For The Township Audit 11/19/2020](#)

[Right-To-Know Law, Sunshine And Ethics, Oh My! - Virtual Class - 12/8/20](#)

[CDL - Probable Cause Training For CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 12/14/20](#)

[The ABCs For Elected Auditors - Virtual Class - 12/15/20](#)

[CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 12/17/20](#)

[Quickbooks - Year-End Employee Functions 12/17/2020](#)

[Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 12/17/20](#)

In-person Classroom Based

[Flagger Training - 11/24/20 - Adams County](#)

[Flagger Training - 12/3/20 - Erie County](#)

[Flagger Training - 12/8/20- Luzerne County](#)

Webinars

Note: These Webinars are Eligible for the Webinar PowerPass.

[Webinar - Best Practices For Managing Short-Term Rentals In Your Township - 11/17/20](#)

[Webinar-How To Assure Your Township's Families Benefit From PA's Child Development Account-11/18/20](#)

[Webinar - New PENNVEST Financing Opportunities - 11/24/20](#)

[Webinar - Claims Of Racism At Your Doorstep: What Is A Township To Do? - 12/2/20](#)

[Webinar - Employment Law Update: Things You May Have Missed During Quarantine - 12/10/20](#)

[Webinar - Are You Prepared For Your 2021 Organizational Meeting? - 12/16/20](#)

Virtual Conference Workshop

All Virtual Conference Workshops are now available as recordings for the remainder of 2020. To access the full list of workshops, visit learn.psats.org/virtual-conference.

Latest News

PSATS Mourns the Loss of Tim Horner

It is with deep sadness that PSATS announces the passing of Tim Horner, the current Chair of the PSATS Trustees. Tim passed in the hospital Saturday, November 14 from non-Covid complications from pneumonia.

Tim was a township supervisor from Chapman Township, Clinton County. He previously served as a supervisor in Manchester Township, York County. Tim had served on the PSATS Executive Board in many capacities, including PSATS President as well as Chairman of the Board prior to becoming a Trustee. Tim also represented townships on the PA Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT).

An avid antique collector and sportsman, Tim personified service having been involved in a multitude of community activities sharing his financial acumen. "A fierce advocate for common-sense local government, Tim was a staunch defender of local control and was a long-time opponent of mandatory forced consolidation efforts," said PSATS Executive Director David Sanko. "All Pennsylvanians will miss his voice and funny stories."

Details on a memorial service will be made available when finalized.

PennDOT Toll Plan Could Fund Major Bridge Improvements

The state Public Private Transportation Partnership (P3) Board has approved a new transportation initiative, the Major Bridge P3 program, to help accelerate the reconstruction and rehabilitation of major bridges in partnership with the private sector. The program would help shorten bridge restrictions and closures, help offset gas tax revenue losses, ensure that users contribute fairly to the replacement or rehabilitation of the bridges based on usage, and create a sustainable funding model for the state's major bridges. This program is a component of PennDOT's forthcoming Pathways initiative, which will be a plan to provide more sustainable transportation funding options. [Click here](#) for the press release.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the funds for the reconstruction of these bridges could be paid for through tolls that would be in partnership with the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Selected bridges would go through a review process and need to meet federal standards before tolls could be levied. PennDOT would request proposals from the private sector to reconstruct and maintain major bridges, similar to the existing state P3 bridge program. If a bridge received approval for tolls, EZPass transponders or license plate readers would be

installed. Tolls would be used to pay for the bridge construction costs, and any excess funds collected could be used for other construction projects. [Click here](#) for more from the Post-Gazette.

Commonwealth Makes Changes to States on Quarantine Advisory

The commonwealth has added Virginia to the list of states that Pennsylvania residents are urged to quarantine for 14 days upon their return. In addition, the commonwealth is now highly discouraging non-essential travel to several neighboring states, including Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia as a quarantine recommendation is not practically viable. To view the advisory and the current list of states on the advisory, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Cases Continue to Increase; First Flu Death Reported

The statewide COVID case total now stands at 259,938, while the total deaths attributed to COVID-19 have reached 9,274, with more than 250 deaths reported this week. Pennsylvania set five separate daily case records this week, culminating in Saturday's new record of 5,551, but also set records for the number of daily tests that were reported.

Nationally, daily rates now well exceed 100,000. Daily cases per 100,000 are rising fastest in the Midwest, led by North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa, while the highest total daily cases being reported are in Illinois, Texas, and California.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) saw an increase for the eighth week in a row, from 1,735 to 2,440. Only 531 of these patients, or 22%, are in an ICU. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased from 167 to 265, or 59%.

To help combat the pandemic, the state Department of Health added testing sites in Blair and Bradford counties this week. Testing sites previously available include: Berks, Centre, Columbia, Huntingdon, Indiana, Lebanon, Northumberland, and Westmoreland counties, where community testing continues. If your township needs to find a testing site, [click here](#) to find the closest one.

In addition, the department distributed rapid antigen test kits this week to institutions in Armstrong, Dauphin, Delaware, and Indiana counties, including nursing homes, colleges, correctional facilities, and health care providers. The department continues to monitor for influenza, which remains at low levels, and [announced the first death](#) this season due to influenza.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has increased from 6.9% to 9.6%, which means the entire state qualifies for the "watch" list for the third straight week. 62 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties had percent-positivity rates of 5% or more for the past week, including Adams, Allegheny (new), Armstrong, Beaver (new), Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton (new), Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Elk, Erie, Fayette (new), Franklin, Fulton, Greene (new), Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna (new), Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming (new), McKean (new), Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour (new), Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter (new), Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan (new), Tioga, Venango, Warren (new), Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York.

Cameron and Susquehanna counties saw their percent-positivity rates drop under 5% last week and were removed from the state's "watch" list, while Lackawanna, Potter, and Sullivan counties are back on after one week off the list. [Click here](#) for more information.

PSATS Town Hall – Personnel Management During COVID-19

Join PSATS and attorneys from Eckert Seamans for a free PSATS Town Hall on Thursday, November 19 from 3-4 p.m. focused on helping townships navigate the many personnel challenges raised as a result of COVID-19. Get answers to all sorts of personnel questions, including whether your township employees need to quarantine if they are a "close contact" of someone with COVID-19, whether your township can or should require employees to get COVID-19 tests if they are not feeling well, or how the township should be handling PTO requests from employees with children in virtual school or relatives who are sick.

If you have questions that you would like to raise with the presenters, please email them to scoburn@psats.org.

For those seeking CLE credits, there is a \$15 fee.

[Click here](#) to register.

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We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

4855 Woodland Drive

Enola, PA 17025

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