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December 21, 2020

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## Latest News

### **Distribution of Second COVID-19 Vaccine Now Under Way**

The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** have approved the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in individuals 18 years of age and older, and distribution to the states is now under way. In addition, the second week's distribution of the Pfizer vaccine is being shipped to the states. [Read full story.](#)

### **CDC Advisory Committee Sets Priorities for Next Phases of Vaccine Rollout**

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted on how to allocate supplies of COVID-19 vaccines for the next phases, 1b and 1c. The committee voted to prioritize Phase 1b for adults ages 75 and older and frontline workers who are working in the community. This includes police officers, firefighters, teachers, daycare workers, corrections officers, public transit workers, and everyone who is essential for the food supply, from farmers to grocery store workers. Phase 1b is expected to begin in January. [Read full story.](#)

### **COVID-19 Cases Decrease, Hospitalizations Slow**

Just in time for the holidays, there are signs that the COVID-19 surge, which has been increasing in Pennsylvania since mid-September, is slowing. After steadily increasing since mid-September, the statewide COVID-19 case total now stands at 548,489. While 67,371 new cases were reported this week, this is 3% less than in the prior week. [Read full story.](#)

### **PA Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.6 percent**

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for November dropped from 7.3% to 6.6%, below the national unemployment rate of 6.7%. Over the past six months, Pennsylvania has recovered 57.7% of its total non-farm jobs lost in March and April. However, it should be noted that the new rate does not include the impact of the latest mitigation orders issued in early December, which closed indoor dining and indoor entertainment facilities [Click here](#) to learn more about the unemployment rate.

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### **[How Effective Communication Can Help Implement Community Planning- Virtual- January 21 & 28, 2021](#)**

Learn about different approaches to policy implementation and the importance of strong communication between Municipal Officials, Planners, and Code Enforcement Officers. This two-part, interactive training session will highlight how people who must take on multiple roles can effectively adapt messages to convey different perspectives through different levels of interaction. Participants will learn about their own communication strengths and weaknesses and how to recognize different personalities and communication styles in others, enhancing their management efforts. Best practices and real-life scenarios will be included to provide practical, every-day application of the information shared in the session. Attendance for both sessions qualifies for 3 PMGA Administration points.

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