



January 4, 2021

---

## Latest News

### Happy Organization Meeting Day!

#### PSATS COVID Fact Sheets Updated to Cover Current Commonwealth Orders

As a member service, PSATS has updated its fact sheets to reflect the current commonwealth COVID mitigation orders, including gathering limits, and remove references to the temporary orders, which expired this morning. The fact sheets will help your township know what to do if an employee becomes sick or is exposed to COVID-19 and how to evaluate options for safe public meetings. [Click here](#) for updated fact sheets and full story.

#### Reminder: IRS Sets 2021 Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service has set the 2021 standard business mileage rate at 56 cents per mile, down from 57.5 cents per mile for 2020. [Click here](#) for more.

#### OOR Updates Right-to-Know Law Fee Schedule

The Office of Open Records has updated its official fee schedule that townships must use when charging for Right-to-Know Law requests. [Read full story.](#)

#### Commonwealth Adds New COVID Testing Sites

Today, the state Department of Health is adding COVID-19 testing sites in Crawford, Dauphin, Lehigh, Somerset, and Union counties. The sites in Lehigh and Union have both drive-thru and indoor walk-in testing available, while Crawford, Dauphin, and Somerset are drive-thru only. Testing is available 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at these sites until Friday, January 8, except the Union site will run from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6. Tests are free and do not require preregistration. [Click here](#) for exact

locations. If your township needs to find a testing site in another county, [click here](#) to find the closest one.

### **COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Continue to Drop**

The COVID-19 surge has shown multiple signs of slowing in Pennsylvania for the last three weeks. The statewide COVID-19 case total now stands at 657,292. While 52,151 new cases were reported this week, this is 8% less than in the prior week. [Read full story.](#)

### **DEP to Hold Virtual Public Hearing on PennEast Pipeline Applications**

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a virtual public hearing on January 13, 2021, at 6 p.m. to hear testimony on permit applications for construction of the PennEast Pipeline project in northeast Pennsylvania. The permits under review by the department include Chapter 102 for erosion and sediment control and Chapter 105 for water obstruction and encroachment. [Click here](#) for more.

Looking for the Latest Issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*? [Click here.](#)

### **Digital Version of Township News is Now Available**

#### **Townships Bid Good Riddance to 2020!**

In this month's Township News, township officials share the lessons they learned during what was a challenging 2020 and what they will carry with them into the New Year. Other features include an article on the important role of the township treasurer, a preview of the 2021 Conference planned for April 18-21 in Hershey, and a remembrance of PSATS Past President Tim Horner, who passed away last year.

Subscribers to the News can access a digital copy by signing in to [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org) and clicking on "Digital Publications" under "My PSATS Profile." Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article [here](#) and learn how to subscribe to the News [here](#).

**Reminder - Applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program Opens January 4, 2021**



The FY 2020 AFG application window opens on Monday, January 4, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. and will close on Friday, February 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Townships should make sure their volunteer fire companies are aware of the application guidance materials which they can access by clicking [HERE](#).

---

## Legislation & Policy



### **Representative Mike Reese**

We are saddened to report the recent death of Rep. Mike Reese (R-Somerset/ Westmoreland). Reese served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since first being elected in 2008. Reese was recently elected to serve as Caucus Chair for the 2021-22 legislative session.

PSATS would like to express our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

---

## Learn

### **[Webinar - What's All The Noise About Noise Ordinances? - 2/3/21](#)**

In this webinar, township supervisors, staff, and solicitors will receive sound information about the need for noise ordinances, hear about the startling current research on noise and its adverse effects on health, learn important distinctions between nuisance law and noise ordinances and ways to avoid the decibel level trap. Attendees will also learn tips on drafting a true, simple and effective noise ordinance.

Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.



---

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).

---



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.