



January 19, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's DaveTalk | The Show Must Go On

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine combined with the end of flu season makes April an ideal time to have what may be one of the first approved large gatherings in more than a year. PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko talks about the 2021 Conference and Exhibit Show and why the show must go on. (3:16)

Latest News

Pa. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Drop

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) saw a decrease for the fourth week in a row, from 5,201 to 4,582. 950 of these patients are in an ICU, down from

1,062 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased for the third week in a row, from 640 to 583.

The statewide COVID-19 case total now stands at 771,845, including 48,467 new cases that were reported this week, less than the prior week. The total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania have reached 19,390, including 1,521 deaths reported this week, more than in the previous week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate dropped from 14.4% to 12.7%. For the first time in months, nine counties dropped below 10%.

- Counties with percent-positivity rates of more than 5% but less than 10%: Allegheny, Cambria, Centre, Delaware, Elk, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Sullivan, and Tioga.
- Counties with percent-positivity rates of more than 20%: Adams, Columbia, Forest, and Perry.

[Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Biden Outlines Vaccine Plan

President-elect Joe Biden has outlined his vaccine plan, which includes a goal of 100 million vaccinations in 100 days. Here are the five things the Biden administration plans to do to improve the vaccination process:

- Open vaccine access to more priority groups, focusing on frontline essential workers and those 65 and older. This will require the supply to be pushed out as it becomes available.
- Increase vaccination sites. Biden plans to use the Federal Emergency Management Agency to set up 100 federally supported vaccination centers, as well as mobile vaccination clinics.
- Fully activate vaccine administration at pharmacies. Vaccines will be distributed through chain and independent pharmacies.
- Ramp up vaccine supply using the Defense Production Act. This includes releasing all but a small reserve supply of vaccines.
- Provide honest and transparent information on the vaccine supply and rollout.

[Click here](#) for more.

Commonwealth Adding New COVID Testing Sites

Tomorrow, January 20, the state Department of Health is adding COVID-19 regional testing sites in Adams, Carbon, McKean, Snyder, and Washington counties. The sites in McKean and Snyder will have both drive-thru and indoor walk-in testing available, while Adams, Carbon, and Washington are drive-thru only. Testing will be available 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at

these sites until Sunday, January 24. 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.

Reminder - Grid Scale Solar energy - Ordinance Considerations for PA Townships/Counties Webinar

This Penn State-sponsored webinar is uniquely designed for local officials in Pennsylvania. As solar energy leasing and solar array deployment increases across the state, and some Commonwealth officials predicting 80K acres of panels before 2030, elected officials throughout the state are looking at creating or updating ordinances to plan for an orderly energy transition involving renewables. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Today, January 19, is National Popcorn Day

Share a bowl with a friend while you are working, being entertained or just taking a break! **Looking for the Latest Issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin?** [Click here](#).

Legislation & Policy



Senator Dave Arnold

We are saddened to report the death of Senator Dave Arnold (R-Lebanon). Arnold, 49 passed away on Sunday after a battle with brain cancer.

PSATS would like to express our condolences to Senator Arnold's family and friends.

Costa Announces Democratic Committee Chair Assignments

Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) announced the Democratic chairs for each of the 22 Senate standing committees for the 2021-22 legislative session:

- Aging & Youth: Senator Maria Collett (D-12)
- Agriculture & Rural Affairs: Senator Judy Schwank (D-11)
- Appropriations: Senator Vincent Hughes (D-7)

- Banking & Insurance: Senator Sharif Street (D-3)
 - Communications & Technology: Senator John Kane (D-9)
 - Community, Economic & Recreational Development: Senator Amanda Cappelletti (D-17)
 - Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure: Senator Lisa Boscola (D-18)
 - Education: Senator Lindsey Williams (D-38)
 - Environmental Resources & Energy: Senator Carolyn Comitta (D-19)
 - Finance: Senator John Blake (D-22)
 - Game & Fisheries: Senator Jim Brewster (D-45)
 - Health & Human Services: Senator Art Haywood (D-4)
 - Intergovernmental Operations: Senator Anthony Williams (D-8)
 - Judiciary: Senator Steve Santarsiero (D-10)
 - Labor & Industry: Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-2)
 - Law & Justice: Senator James Brewster (D-45)
 - Local Government: Senator Tim Kearney (D-26)
 - Rules & Executive Nominations: Senator Jay Costa (D-43)
 - State Government: Senator Sharif Street (D-3)
 - Transportation: Senator John Sabatina (D-5)
 - Urban Affairs & Housing: Senator Nikil Saval (D-1)
 - Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness: Senator Katie Muth (D-44)
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Learn

[CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 1/26/21](#)

This virtual training workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's records in the FMCSA Clearinghouse; requests for CMV driver's license information from PennDOT; annually reviewing each CDL drivers records in the Clearinghouse; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations. This class is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - COVID-19 Vaccines: What Municipal Employers Need to Know - 2/2/21](#)

In this webinar, Ryan J. Cassidy, Michael McAuliffe Miller and Scott E. Blissman of Eckert Seamans' Labor and Employment Group will present a focused discussion of the relevant factors municipal employers should consider when implementing vaccination policies, maintaining employee morale, handling enforcement issues and managing accommodations requests. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

[Performing MS4 Outfall Inspections - Virtual Class - 2/16/21](#)

In this virtual class, attendees will learn a workable, effective framework for establishing a hierarchy for outfall inspections, a protocol for performing inspections in the field, and method for inspecting documenting and addressing potential illicit discharges. This class, which will be led by Mark Harman of ARRO Consulting, will benefit everyone involved in your township's stormwater management program, including supervisors, managers/secretaries, and public works management and staff. This course is



eligible for 2 PMGA Public Works points. [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.



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