TVN's Question of the Week | Can You Require COVID-19 Vaccines?
We explore a hot-button topic: Can the township supervisors – or any employer, for that matter – require employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine? Also, click here to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:10)

Latest News

National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
On February 11th, Don’t Cry Over Spilled Milk Day promotes a positive attitude even when things might not be going your way. It’s a day for looking on the bright side of things and then carrying that feeling with you every day after. Do not worry and do not stress over the little things. Life is too short to let the little things bother us. Everyone knows that
unexpected or unplanned things happen in life, sometimes daily. With a positive attitude, life is much brighter and easier.

Free Resources Available to Help Municipalities Address Local Transportation Issues and Goals
Through PennDOT Connects, the state Department of Transportation and its regional planning partners are involving local government in project planning and providing resources to help municipalities address local transportation issues and goals.

The PennDOT Connects website is the primary source for resources and information about the PennDOT Connects Municipal Support Program. From the website, you can request technical assistance and onsite training, as well as view online training modules and quarterly newsletters. Requests can also be submitted by phone at (717) 710-2090 or emailed to PAConnects@pa.gov. All resources provided by the PennDOT Connects Municipal Support Program are free to municipalities.

Technical assistance is offered to answer questions, guide municipalities in best practices, and work with an expert on a specific transportation planning need. Be sure to include a brief description of your local issue and the desired level of assistance (phone, email, or site visit/training support) in your request. Requests are reviewed and assigned to technical experts to provide timely feedback for meaningful support and recommendations.

Range Resources Pays Penalties for Inaccurate Well Activity Status
The state Department of Environmental Protection has executed a consent assessment of civil penalty with Range Resources – Appalachia, LLC for $294,000. Range Resources listed several natural gas wells as inactive, but they were not viable for future use, which meant they needed to be classified as abandoned and plugged. The funds will be used to plug orphan wells. Click here for more.

EPA, Foundation Announce Awards for Water Quality Projects in Pennsylvania
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have announced the awarding of $1.2 million for eight Pennsylvania projects to improve rivers and streams that connect to the Chesapeake Bay. Projects include stream restoration in York County, floodplain restoration in Dauphin and Lancaster counties, and installation of animal waste management facilities and barnyard runoff controls for a demonstration farm in Lancaster County. Several awards went either to townships or for projects within townships. To learn more, click here.

FCC Hosts Roundtable on Emergency Broadband Benefit Program
Tomorrow, February 12, at 10 a.m., the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will host a roundtable discussion on the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which will
be livestreamed [here](#). The $3.2 billion program authorizes eligible households to receive a discount off the cost of broadband service (up to $50 a month) and certain connected devices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participating providers can be reimbursed for such discounts. The roundtable discussions will focus on how to build awareness of the program, how to create an effective enrollment process, and broadband provider participation and consumer choice in the program. [Click here](#) for more.

**Commonwealth Grants Available for Hospitality Industry**

The COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program will provide block grants to each county based on population and be allocated by February 28. Grants of $5,000 to $50,000 will be distributed to small businesses considered to be places of accommodations, food services, or drinking places, with priority to businesses that have not received a commonwealth or local government grant or loan and were subject to closure by the governor’s disaster declaration. [Click here](#) for more.

**Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement for Week of February 1**

**Pa. Department of Agriculture:** The Bureau of Food Safety performed 537 total inspections, 32 of which were the result of COVID-19-related complaints, and received 241 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 19 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions.

**Pennsylvania State Police:** Officers issued 77 warnings and 46 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 1,175 licensed liquor establishments. That brings the total violation count to 723 over the last 223 days ([3.2 per day statewide](#)).

**Pa. Department of State:** The Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 319 inspections of licensed professions’ compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened 22 COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed 15 warning letters and two compliance letters.

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**Learn**
CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 2/12/21
State and federal regulations require every employer who has CDL employees driving vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating or operating weight of more than 26,001 pounds used on public roads to participate in a drug and alcohol testing program. These same regulations also require that such employers train all personnel who supervise employees with commercial driver’s licenses (CDLs) in handling suspected on-the-job drug or alcohol use. This workshop addresses these federal requirements by providing supervisory personnel with a working understanding of the federal CDL regulations, including on-the-job probable cause procedures. In addition to those supervisory personnel required to attend, all township CDL employees should attend this workshop to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding this important public safety training. Click here for more information and to register.

Webinar - Positive Impacts of Trail Planning on the Community - 2/18/21
Trails and greenways create healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible, and low-or no-cost places to cycle, walk, hike, jog or skate. Trails help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go. Communities that encourage physical activity by making use of the linear corridors can see a significant effect on public health and wellness. In this webinar, you will learn ways in which your township can become more trial-friendly. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. Click here to register.
Webinar - Zoning Implications for Agritourism in Pennsylvania - 3/18/21

The intersection of farming and entertainment is a popular business in Pennsylvania. Many farmers across Pennsylvania have diversified their farms by inviting the public onto their property for everything from hayrides and corn mazes to barn weddings and events. While this past year has placed barriers on many of these activities, they will return. There are several important legal considerations regarding agritourism operations in Pennsylvania, such as zoning, regulations, insurance and other matters. Zoning laws regulate land uses, including agritourism. These may address the ability of property owners to use their property in such a manner to parking, hours of operation, traffic, noise, and lighting. Gretchen Moore and Alexis Wheeler from Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky will present and explore the caselaw and analysis relative to this burgeoning farm use. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education credit (CLE). 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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