



February 24, 2021

Latest News

More Vaccine on the Way

Executives with Pfizer and Moderna submitted testimony to Congress indicating that they are working to ramp up production in the coming weeks, with Pfizer projected to produce more than 13 million doses per week by mid-March and Moderna aiming for 40 million doses per month. In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is scheduled to consider Johnson & Johnson's vaccine submission on Friday and if approved, the company expects to provide more than 20 million doses by the end of March.

This week, Pennsylvania will receive 225,890 first doses and 180,610 second doses of vaccine, an increase of 82,000 doses, due to an increase in supply from Pfizer. This is the highest single-week allotment of first doses that Pennsylvania has received so far, and even with shipping delays due to winter weather, all doses for this week will be received by Friday. [Click here](#) for more.

PA Citizens Hits Nearly 560,000 Completed Vaccinations

While more than 2 million total doses of vaccine have been administered in Pennsylvania, only slightly more than half a million Pennsylvanians have completed their regimen with a second shot. There have been more than 1.4 million first doses and 559,644 second doses. According to the CDC, Pennsylvania ranks 41st for total doses administered per capita and 6th for total population doses administered, behind California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Illinois.

Gov. Tom Wolf and Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam announced that the residents of more than 600 skilled nursing facilities have received both vaccine doses, with more than 315,000 total doses administered to all long-term care facilities by CVS and

Walgreens to both residents and staff. Three total clinics will be held at each facility to ensure that residents and staff have two opportunities to receive first and second doses, with clinics scheduled for completion by mid-March. In addition, the commonwealth is implementing plans to make sure that new residents and staff are vaccinated right away.

Highmark Offers Grants for EMS Agencies

Highmark is funding a \$10 million grant program for Pennsylvania licensed emergency medical service agencies. The Pennsylvania EMS Provider Foundations is administering the grant funds, which must be used for equipment, including hardware and software, used to provide EMS services or the repair of equipment used to provide EMS services, and supplies, including medications and PPE, used to provide EMS services. Grants are limited to \$250,000 each.

The grant program is expected to begin accepting applications by March 1 and to distribute funds by mid-summer. Consideration will be given to retroactive grants for purchases made during calendar year 2020. Grants may be full or partial reimbursement. Additional details and application information will be posted [here](#) (*scroll down the page for details*).

National Tortilla Chip Day

National Tortilla Chip Day, a day set aside for the crunchy snack loved by millions across the nation, is observed annually on February 24th.

Everyone loves tortilla chips! We most commonly served them with salsa, chile con queso, guacamole, cheese dips or other dips. Tortilla chips are made from corn tortillas cut into wedges and then fried. The tortillas are made from corn, vegetable oil, salt, and water. Typically made with yellow corn, tortillas can also be made with white, blue or red corn.

Legislation & Policy



The Senate will reconvene for session today, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. Watch session live [here](#).

[Click here](#) to watch today's House Appropriations Committee budget hearings.

Senate Approves Service Dog Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously approved SB 36 which would exempt service dogs and their handlers from paying for licensing fees if they are used by Sheriffs' offices, fire departments and/or for rescue or emergency medical services missions. Under current law, state police and local police K-9 units as well as service dogs used by individuals who have certain medical conditions are exempt from the licensing fees.

SB 36 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Learn

[Webinar - Positive Impacts of Trail Planning on the Community - Postponed to 2/25/21](#)

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 trail-friendly. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Tips for Thwarting Township Cyber Threats - 3/3/21](#)

Cyber threats, whether in the form of phishing, ransomware or the next big thing, are on the rise and municipal governments are not immune. Is your township prepared to prevent and, if necessary, respond to these threats? In this webinar, Erik Avakian's the Commonwealth's Chief Information Security Officer, will review best practices for how your township can best protect its data (and that of its residents and vendors) and how to respond to threats and attacks, as well as what to look for when contracting with IT vendors. Eligible for



1 PMGA Public Safety point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Taking Your Municipality to New Heights with UAV/Drone Technology - 3/10/21](#)

In this webinar, learn more about how you can utilize UAV/Drone services as another tool for your municipal projects while saving time, saving money, and increasing safety. Representatives of Carroll Engineering will explore the full capabilities of drones, including examples of uses at the municipal level, requirements needed for becoming a licensed UAV/Drone pilot, typical procedures and regulations, equipment/hardware, and the expansion of future uses for this technology. Attendees will also be eligible for a prize compliments of Carroll Engineering. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - The Criminal and Civil Consequences of Municipal Firearm Regulation - 3/17/21](#)

While many municipal officials and employees are not aware of the restrictions that exist when it comes to local governments enacting and enforcing firearm and ammunition-related regulations, the consequences for municipalities and their elected officials can be extreme -- and they don't end merely with taxpayer disgruntlement over the wasted expenditure of taxpayer funds spent to enact, enforce and defend such regulations. Join us for a one-hour discussion on Pennsylvania's firearm, ammunition, and range preemption statutes so that you can protect your municipalities from more than just taxpayer disgruntlement. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education Credit (CLE). [Click here](#) to register.



Webinar - High Cube and Automated Warehouses - Are You Prepared? - 3/17/21

A new land use, the high cube or automated warehouse, is starting to pop up around Pennsylvania and the county. These warehouses have a variety of forms, from “a warehouse on top of a warehouse” to largely robotic retrofits in an existing building, but in essence will have significant transportation, emergency management services, workforce, tax and environmental implications, among other things. Because they come in a variety of forms including, new developments, site redevelopments and existing building additions, and retrofits, high cube and automated warehousing affect subdivision and land development, zoning and/or building codes needs. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has drafted a series of municipal considerations that its representatives will review with webinar attendees. This is a first of its kind community guide in the US to address this emerging form of development and its associated technology. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.

Webinar - Sinkholes - A Perplexing Geologic Condition - 3/24/21

The word sinkhole has several connotations to various audiences. In the municipal world, information about sinkholes is relevant to planning for future land development and for the protection of private and public property. This discussion will provide you with an uncomplicated explanation of geology in Pennsylvania, review the triggers that cause land subsidence and give an overview of some basic investigative tools that your township can employ to better prepare itself to manage potential and actual sinkholes. A few relevant references for further study will be provided. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works. [Click here](#) to register.



[QuickBooks for the Beginner - Virtual Class - February](#)

This four-session virtual class is designed to provide each student with a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting Software, and is intended to demonstrate the application of QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro to assist in municipal accounting. The sessions will review how to set up your company files and create your DCED Compliant Chart of Accounts. From start to finish, how to write a check, make a deposit and reconcile your checking account. You will learn how to set up vendors and customers for all of your information that you could possibly need to replace that old rolodex. (note: no payroll will be addressed in this class). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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