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February 5, 2021

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## Latest News

### **National Wear Red Day**

National Wear Red Day, on the first Friday in February, is an annual campaign to raise awareness about heart disease in women. The national campaign urges women to learn their risk for heart disease and to take steps to lower their risk. Heart disease and stroke kill one in three women. These diseases are 80 percent preventable according to the official website. Go [here](#) for more information.

### **FDA to Review Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has announced that Janssen Biotech Inc. (*Johnson & Johnson*) has requested an emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA is reviewing the application and will discuss it during a February 26 meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee.

It is anticipated that the vaccine could be approved soon after the February 26 meeting. It has an effective rate of 66% which is higher than the season flu vaccines but not as high as previously approved vaccines. The Janssen vaccine is a single dose that can be stored in a refrigerator, which would make the logistics of this vaccine easier to manage than the currently approved vaccines. [Click here](#) for more.

### **DEP Lifts Drought Watch in Remaining Counties**

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has lifted a drought watch for Centre, Clearfield, and Clinton counties, which were the last statewide remaining under a watch. DEP noted that hydrologic conditions are now normal statewide.

### **Senate Holds Joint Hearing on Vaccine Distribution**

The state Senate Health and Human Services and Aging and Youth Committees held a joint hearing on vaccine distribution in Pennsylvania. Concerns were raised about the vaccine delivery to long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, and senators believed that those most vulnerable are being vaccinated too slowly and discussed options to improve the progress. Senators questioned whether pharmacies and hospitals were providing vaccines only to those in Phase 1A and asked why Pennsylvania's plan had simply adopted the federal recommendations without question. Presenters expressed frustration over the havoc caused by these changing priorities and unrealistic public expectations.

Pharmacies and hospitals provided successful examples of mass vaccination clinics and their capacity to hold additional clinics in the future if allocated sufficient doses. Providers noted that while the vaccines and supplies are free, they do have unreimbursed costs to schedule and administer the vaccine. The need for better communication, planning, and logistics was emphasized while prioritizing those most at risk. Senators expressed interest in mass vaccination clinics, including those organized at the local level, as well as mobile vaccinations in long-term care facilities. To learn more or watch the recording of the hearing, [click here](#).

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## **Legislation & Policy**



The House and Senate will be in session today, February 5th. Watch session live [here](#).

### **House Approves Archival Records Legislation**

Yesterday, the House approved HB 284 which would amend Title 37 to modernize artifact disposition, acquisition, and retention for the commonwealth and municipalities. HB 284 would also permit the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to retrieve an archival record from a private entity on behalf of a local government. HB 284 is awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

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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 supervisor 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.

### [CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 2/19/21](#)

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.

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