



February 8, 2021

Latest News

Pa. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Continue to Drop

Daily new COVID cases and hospitalizations in Pennsylvania continue to decrease. The statewide COVID-19 case total now stands at 865,604, and while 26,365 new cases were reported this week, this is 31% less than in the prior week and continues a downward trend for the fourth straight week.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) continued to decrease for the seventh week in a row, from 3,370 to 2,913. 592 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 695 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased for the fifth week in a row, from 428 to 329.

The total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania have reached 22,396, including 794 deaths reported this week, 26% less than in the previous week and a decrease for the second week in a row.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate dropped for the fourth week in a row, from 9.3% to 8.6%. Ten additional counties dropped under 10% this week, while three other counties moved over 10%. In addition, three counties dropped below 5%, and Forest dropped from over 20% to under 10%. All counties now have a rate less than 20%.

Counties with percent-positivity rates of less than 5%: Elk, Union, and Warren.

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

National Clean Out Your Computer Day

Observed on the second Monday in February, National Clean Out Your Computer Day promotes taking time out of your day to do some basic housekeeping on your computer. All computers need regular organizing and clean up. This includes the removal of old files and clutter. We tend to save emails, documents, and photos on our hard drive when other media can store it for us. Often, we keep duplicates we don't need, too. Old programs also create havoc, too. Makes sure you are using the latest versions of programs and operating systems, too. Over time, files and programs that are unused on your PC clog the memory and cause confusion during retrieval and use of other data. They may also slow down your computer.

PUC Damage Prevention Committee Releases Agenda for Tuesday's Meeting

The agenda for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Damage Prevention Committee is available for its February 9 meeting, which will be held virtually. The committee reviews alleged violations of the Pennsylvania One Call Law and determines the appropriate response, including warning letters, mandatory training, or fines.

[Click here](#) to view the agenda. To learn how to listen to the meeting, [click here](#).

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

FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide

You're invited to join a virtual workshop on February 24th on the FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide. During this 3-hour virtual and interactive event technical experts, including Pa. LTAP experts will lead participants through the most important elements of the guide and facilitate group discussions. Topics will include policy and planning, bikeway types, facility selection tools, assessing and evaluating feasibility, and bikeway selection process examples.

Workshop attendees are asked to review two online recordings that help introduce the Bikeway Selection Guide prior to the online training event. Instructors will present a summary of the principles and guidance included in the guide. Participants will be invited to apply their knowledge to example corridors, as part of an interactive group activity."

[Click here](#) to register today, as space is limited.

Legislation & Policy



House Approves Emergency Declaration Legislation

On Friday, the House approved SB 2 which proposes amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution relating to emergency disaster declarations, limiting declarations to 21 days and requires renewals be approved by the General Assembly; and nondiscrimination protections.

Note: All amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution must be approved by the General Assembly during two consecutive legislative sessions and then approved by the voters statewide. Having been approved by the General Assembly during two consecutive legislative sessions, the proposed amendments will now be put before the voters in the May 18th primary election.

Governor Signs COVID-19 Relief Package into Law

On Friday, Governor Wolf signed Act 1 of 2021 into law. Act 1 is a \$912 million Covid-19 relief package utilizing Federal funds passed by Congress in December. Additionally, \$145 million from state workers' compensation reserve funds will be used to establish a Hospitality Industry Recovery Program consisting of grants of up to \$50,000 for small businesses hurt by the pandemic and mitigation efforts. The package includes \$569.8 million for rental and utility assistance and \$197 million for education programs both of which are covered by federal funds.

Act 1 also exempts income received from the federal Paycheck Protection Program and stimulus checks from taxation under the state's Personal Income Tax.

Learn

Basic “Virtual” Training for Secretaries and Administrators - Feb. 22 & March 1, 2021

This virtual training class will be offered in two half-day sessions. This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know, right from the comfort of your desk. Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement. Attendance for both sessions qualifies for 6 PMGA Administration points. [Click here](#) to register.



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