



March 1, 2021

Latest News

U.S. House Approves Billions for Pennsylvania

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to approve the Biden 1.9 Trillion dollar spending package 219-212 largely along party lines (with 2 Democrats joining unanimous GOP opposition to the spending plan). More than half the funding in the bill is for non-covid expenses, but some of the Covid expenses include \$1,400 stimulus checks for many Americans as well as \$350 Billion for State and Local governments. Congressional budget figures say Pennsylvania will get \$13.1 Billion, \$7.349 going to state government and \$2.619 slated for county governments. It is estimated that townships will get \$1.235 billion direct although the City of Philadelphia will qualify for \$1.331 billion, more than all the townships in PA combined.

FDA Approves Third COVID-19 Vaccine

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in individuals 18 years of age and older. The new vaccine will be easier to administer and distribute because recipients need a single dose, and it only needs to be refrigerated, unlike the other approved vaccines, which must be kept frozen. To learn more, [click here](#).

In a global study, the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine was 66% effective at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19 and 85% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 at 28 days after vaccination and 100% effective at preventing hospitalization and death.

Pa. COVID-19 Drop for 10th Week in Row

The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 929,697, with 18,106 new cases reported this week. The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) decreased

for the 10th week in a row, from 1,959 to 1,720. 374 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 421 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased for the eighth week in a row, from 253 to 211.

The total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania have reached 24,000, including 430 deaths reported this week. This is 13.6% less than the previous week and a decrease for the fifth week in a row. National deaths have now reached 508,949.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate dropped for the seventh week in a row, from 6.5% to 6.3%. 21 counties now have rates less than 5% (*up from 16 last week*), 43 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10%, and the remaining three counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*down from four last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

FCC Approves \$50 Emergency Broadband Credit

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved an Emergency Broadband Benefit program that will help make broadband more affordable by providing a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute at least \$10 towards the purchase price.

Eligible households include those participating under the current Lifeline program, which receive benefits under a free and reduced-price school lunch or meet other income eligibility criteria. Eligible households will be able to sign up soon. [Click here](#) to learn more.

National Fruit Compote Day

Each year on March 1st, National Fruit Compote Day presents a celebration filled with sweet berries, citrus, and stone fruits to delight the senses. The word compote is French for "mixture."

A compote is a dessert originating in 17th century France. The French believed that fruit cooked in sugar syrup balanced the humidity's effects on the body and led them to invent compotes. Recipes called for whole or pieces of mixed fruit in sugar syrup. The whole fruits are cooked in water with added sugar and spices.

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

Learn

[Right-to-Know Law, Sunshine and Ethics, Oh My! - Virtual Class - 3/2/21](#)

Has your township received bad publicity because of a misstep involving the Right-to-Know Law, Sunshine Act or Ethics Act? Not sure whether you or your township officials/employees are complying with your obligations under any of these laws? Or are you an experienced township official/employee just looking for a refresher? If you answered yes to any of these, you should take this class, which will provide best practices on how to more efficiently handle tricky (and common) RTKL requests, ensure smooth, and legal, public meetings (including remote meetings), avoid tripping yourself up with conflicts of interest and other Ethics Act problems, and much more. This course is eligible for 3 PMGA Administration points and 3 CLE credits (separate fee required for CLEs). [Click here](#) to register.

[CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 3/15/21](#)

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 - 3/22/21](#)

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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