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March 10, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Good News! Deadline Extended for Awards Programs**

With the cancellation of PSATS' Annual Conference, we have extended the deadlines for two of our award programs. This will give townships more time to submit their intergovernmental cooperation projects and encourage youth organizations to submit their community service activities for recognition. The extended deadlines are as follows:

- Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards: April 5
- PSATS Youth Awards: April 1 for youth organizations to submit entries to their county association and April 15 for county associations to submit entries to PSATS.

These awards will be presented in the fall.

### **Pennsylvania Approaches 1 Million Fully Vaccinated for Covid**

The number of fully vaccinated Pennsylvanians is now at 981,209, with 218,476 individuals receiving their second dose last week. An additional 1,085,121 individuals have now received their first dose of vaccine. Pennsylvania has now administered 3,047,539 total doses of COVID-19 vaccines through March 8. Interesting factoid: at 105,000, more out of state residents have gotten shots in Pennsylvania than ANY single county has given shots to residents.

This week, Pennsylvania will receive 254,150 first doses, a decrease over last week, and 225,890 second doses of vaccine, which is an increase over the prior week. According to the CDC, Pennsylvania has dropped to 43rd for total doses administered per capita

### **National Pack Your Lunch Day**

National Pack Your Lunch Day on March 10 encourages everyone across the country to take their lunch to work, school or where ever they're spending the day. It's an opportunity to revitalize lunchtime with fresh and healthful meal choices.

Packing your lunch has benefits you may not expect. One of the immediate benefits is savings. Many home-prepared lunches cost less than ordering off the take-out menu or eating out. Another benefit of making your own lunch is controlling portion sizes and ingredients. By adding fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to your lunches, they will be healthier, too.

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## Legislation & Policy



### **PSATS Provides Testimony on Right-to-Know Law**

Yesterday, PSATS testified before the House State Government Committee on the Right-to-Know Law. PSATS' comments, which were delivered by Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes.

He thanked the General Assembly for enacting Act 15 of 2020, which allowed township boards and commissions to meet remotely and provided a temporary pause on mandatory reviews and approvals for development.

On the topic of Right-to-Know Law reforms, he explained the Association's support for reforms to the Right-to-Know Law to allow: 1) charges for staff time when fulfilling requests or providing online responses; 2) additional commercial fees if a request will be for information used for resale, business solicitation, or financial benefit; and 3) prepayment for requests of copies of more than 200 physical pages (current law is more than 400 pages of documents) or if the requester owes payment for previous unpaid requests of \$50 or more.

Finally, he explained that an amendment to the Right-to-Know Law is needed to address abusive or harassing use of this law by some requesters, including a prohibition on using it to submit discovery requests by lawyers; and to protect taxpayers funds from theft as well as protect law enforcement officers and employees from harassment and identity theft.

[Click here](#) to view PSATS' testimony.

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## Learn

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

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. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



### **[Webinar - High Cube and Automated Warehouses - Are You Prepared? - 3/17/21](#)**

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. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



### **[Webinar - Sinkholes - A Perplexing Geologic Condition - 3/24/21](#)**

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. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Webinar - The Anatomy of Limiting Municipal Loss - 3/31/21](#)**

In this webinar you will learn how to identify core areas of municipal risk and ways in which you can achieve the most benefit for a minimal investment of time and money. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Webinar - Implementing a Logical Addressing Scheme for New Construction - 4/7/21](#)**

In this webinar, you will learn when to begin thinking about how to assign addresses to new construction, keeping in mind your municipality's current developments (Hint – It's sooner than you think it should be!). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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