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March 22, 2021

Latest News

Last Chance to Register for today's Town Hall on Federal Aid for Townships

Join PSATS staff today at 2:30 p.m. for a Virtual Town Hall on *What the American Rescue Plan Means for Your Township*. With the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, \$13 billion is coming to Pennsylvania, including \$7.5 billion to the commonwealth and \$1 billion to municipalities with populations of less than 50,000. As a result, EVERY Pennsylvania township will receive funds. These township amounts will range from a low near \$1,000 to a high of \$8.6 million. [Click here](#) to see how much your township will receive.

While many of the details are still being worked out at the federal and state levels, this PSATS Virtual Town Hall will provide critical information about the timing of the funding, permitted and prohibited uses of the funds, and more. [Click here](#) to register for the town hall.

Despite Increasing Vaccinations, Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Rise

Despite increasing vaccinations, the statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 984,515, including 20,219 new cases reported this week, a 17% increase over last week. Across the state, 42 [counties saw their weekly cases increase](#), while 24 counties saw decreases, and one had the same number of cases as the previous week. After 11 straight weeks in decline, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has increased from 1,433 to 1,554. 320 of these patients are in an ICU, up from 295 the prior week. After 10 straight weeks of declines, the number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased from 176 to 194.

Thankfully, the total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania continued to decline for the eighth week in a row, with 201 deaths reported this week, 21% less than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 24,774.

After decreasing for eight straight weeks and then holding steady for one, Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has now increased from 5.7% to 6.5%. 21 counties now have rates of less than 5% (*down from 29 last week*), 41 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (up from 36 last week), and the remaining five counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*up from two last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Police Commission Issues Temporary Regulations for Mental Health Evaluations

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission has published a temporary rulemaking to implement Act 59 of 2020, which provides for mental health evaluations of law enforcement officers. The rulemaking addresses confidentiality of requests or recommendations for mental health evaluations, confidentiality of mental health records, and municipal responsibilities. The temporary regulation will take effect **July 14, 2021**.

Comments on the temporary rulemaking may be submitted by **April 19, 2021**, to Sgt. Leslie Barr, Policy and Legislative Affairs Office, State Police, 1800 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110, e-mail lesbarr@pa.gov. Reference "#17-88, Chapter 72" when submitting comments. To read the temporary rulemaking, [click here](#).

National Bavarian Crepes Day

Serving up a light and airy dish, March 22nd annually recognizes National Bavarian Crepes Day.

Bavarian crepes are a delicious, very thin pancake-like dessert. They are typically made from wheat flour or buckwheat flour, then filled, rolled, and then often topped with a glaze, fruit, chocolate or whipped cream. In Bavaria, crepes are called palatschinke. While similar to a French crepe, the Bavarian crepe batter doesn't need to rest before using.

Both types of crepes lend themselves to delicious desserts and fresh breakfast settings. They even make for a light brunch with a savory touch. However, crepes shine when it comes to delivering delicate and beautiful desserts. Whether they are filled with cream, mousse, or jams, the results are almost always spectacular.



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, March 22. Watch session live [here](#).

Learn

[Webinar - Understanding Sick Leave During a Global Pandemic - 3/23/21](#)

This webinar, presented by Neil Morris and Gabriel Celli of Offit Kurman, will be aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the key changes to leave requirements, best practices, avoiding common misconceptions and pitfalls, and the interplay between these changes and the FMLA, ADA, state and local laws, and current leave policies that are already in existence. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[2021 Engineers Virtual Spring Seminar - 4/19 & 4/20/2021](#)

The 2021 Spring Township Engineer's Seminar is a 2-day on-line event held this year from 8:30 -11:30 a.m. the mornings of Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20, 2021. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



[2021 Solicitors Virtual Spring Seminar - 4/19/21](#)

This virtual, on-line seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



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