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April 12, 2021

Latest News

Happy Local Government Week!

To promote Local Government Week, which begins today, PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko released a statewide op-ed about the critical role that township government and its officials play in the commonwealth's governing system. Established to be a direct reflection and representation of the people who live there, townships are places where residents — when they choose to — have a voice in what happens, where every expenditure is scrutinized, and where services provided don't exceed what the community needs or can afford. Townships are full-service, grassroots-driven communities, dedicated to meeting their neighbors' needs. To read the op-ed, [click here](#) and scroll down to op-eds.

In addition, PSATS has a Local Government Week Toolkit that you can use to do a little PR with your constituents and communicate your duties and responsibilities. [Click here](#) for the toolkit.

Township Employees, Officials Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccines

Just in time for Local Government Week, Pennsylvania has now moved into Phase 1C for COVID-19 vaccine administration, which means that all township employees and elected officials are now eligible to make an appointment for the vaccine. Phase 1C also includes food service employees, transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, finance, energy, legal, public safety, and the news media.

[Click here](#) for the updated vaccine provider map or call 1-877-724-3258 if you do not have internet access and need to find a provider. The map is updated each Monday. Pennsylvania is currently distributing much of its supply through the hospital systems, which have been running regular clinics. Additional supply is being provided to pharmacies through the federal government. Be sure to sign up this week before the general public becomes eligible on April 19.

Reminder: Township Officials Should Participate in PennDOT Survey

If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes by **April 14** to complete a survey by [clicking here](#) and telling PennDOT which priorities are important to you. The survey is collecting feedback on the department's long-term planning efforts, including its 12-Year Program, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and the Freight Movement Plan. These plans help PennDOT develop its funding and project priorities for the future.

Pa. COVID-19 Case Growth Slows

While cases and hospitalizations continued to increase this week, it is at a slower rate than in recent weeks. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,068,974 with 30,225 new cases reported this week, a 4% increase over last week and an increase for the fifth week in a row. Across the state, 42 counties saw their weekly cases increase (*compared to 55 last week*), while 25 counties saw decreases (*compared to nine last week*), and none had no change (*compared to two last week*). Nationwide, weekly case counts are increasing, and the highest growth in cases per 100,000 continues to be Michigan, New Jersey, New York City, and New York State, with Pennsylvania now at number six.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has increased for the fourth week in a row from 2,202 to 2,460, an 11.7% increase. 516 of these patients are in an ICU, up from 432 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased for the fourth week in a row, from 221 to 254.

After one week of decreased total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania compared to the prior weeks, 214 deaths were reported this week, 6% more than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 25,402.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has increased slightly for the fourth week in a row, from 9.4% to 9.5%. Seven counties now have rates less than 5% (*down from 10 last week*), 32 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (up from 30 last week), 26 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*same as last week*), and the remaining two counties have rates of 20% but less than 30% (*up from one last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Pfizer Requests Approval to Use COVID-19 Vaccine for Teens

Pfizer Inc. has requested that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amend the emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to authorize its use in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age. Phase 3 trials demonstrated 100% efficacy and robust antibody response after vaccination. [Click here](#) for more.

National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

Each year, National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day on April 12th recognizes one of the top comfort foods in the United States. Why wouldn't it be when we're talking about bread grilled to perfection, and warm, gooey, melted cheese.

According to food historians, many cultures around the world have enjoyed cooked bread and cheese since ancient times. The United States modern version of the grilled cheese sandwich originated in the 1920s. As sliced bread and American cheese became easily available, Americans began making open-faced grilled cheese sandwiches. United States government cookbooks describe Navy cooks broiling "American cheese filling sandwiches" during World War II.

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

Learn

[Webinar - Cable Franchising 101 - 4/14/21](#)

This webinar is designed for township officials who are not familiar with the intricacies of cable franchising. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Scanning & Document Management for Your Township - 4/21/21](#)

This webinar will provide participants with an overview of the benefits of going digital – converting paper records to searchable digital images - with their records management. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Principles of Paving - 4/28/21](#)

This webinar will provide an overview of Principles of Paving, paving techniques, PennDOT specifications, and lessons learned from local officials. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Creating Your Personal Financial Foundation - 5/3/21](#)

Managing your personal budget can help you cover expenses with less stress, more easily pay down longer-term debt like a school loan or mortgage and save for future financial goals. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Fire and EMS - What Can We Do to Ensure Their Sustainability - 5/5/21](#)

This webinar will educate participants on how fire and emergency medical services (EMS) operate in Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025



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