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April 28, 2021

Latest News

PSATS Staff Opportunities

Do you have special talents to share with others to preserve commonsense and local government? PSATS, your member service organization, is looking to add new talent to our extraordinary staff. Fiscal and administrative support, benefits coordination, marketing, strong writing, website, digital or video communications, fundraising or event planning are all skills that can open the door. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities in Enola, or know someone who is, please email resume@psats.org with a letter of interest and resume. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

FCC Collecting Broadband Experiences, Speed App Data

The Federal Communications Commission is collecting broadband information from consumers to create maps that display fixed and mobile broadband availability, or lack of access. By reaching out to consumers, the FCC believes it can build more accurate maps that show where high speed internet services are currently unavailable.

Township officials and their residents are encouraged to participate and **tell the FCC about their access or lack of access**. The FCC is encouraging consumers to share their broadband experience by filling out a short form detailing their lack of connectivity. Supporting documents can be uploaded to this form. In addition, the FCC has a Speed Test App available that can be downloaded and run to show actual broadband speeds. [Click here](#) to learn more and to participate.

CDC Updates Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released updated health recommendations for fully vaccinated people. Township officials should note that Pennsylvania's mask order [automatically incorporates](#) updated CDC guidance on masking.

People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine. Under the new guidance, fully vaccinated people:

- Do not need to wear a mask outdoors, except in certain crowded settings and venues.
- Can continue to work following an exposure as long as they are asymptomatic.
- May be exempted from routine screening testing, if feasible.
- May visit indoors with other fully vaccinated people without masks or social distancing.
- May visit indoors with unvaccinated people from a single household at low risk for severe COVID-19 without masks or social distancing.
- Do not need to quarantine or be tested following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

Fully vaccinated people should continue to take precautions in indoor public settings, such as wearing a mask and social distancing; avoid large indoor in-person gatherings; follow employer guidance; and get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. [Click here](#) for more.

REAL ID Effective Date Delayed Until May 3, 2023

The Department of Homeland Security is [extending the REAL ID full enforcement date](#) from October 1, 2021 to **May 3, 2023** due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Department cited the pandemic's impact on states' ability to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licensing agencies as reason for the delay.



Due to the change, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (*such as a valid passport or military ID*) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID beginning **May 3, 2023**.

REAL IDs are now available to Pennsylvanians who want them. To learn more about whether you need a REAL ID and how to obtain one from the state Department of Transportation, [click here](#).

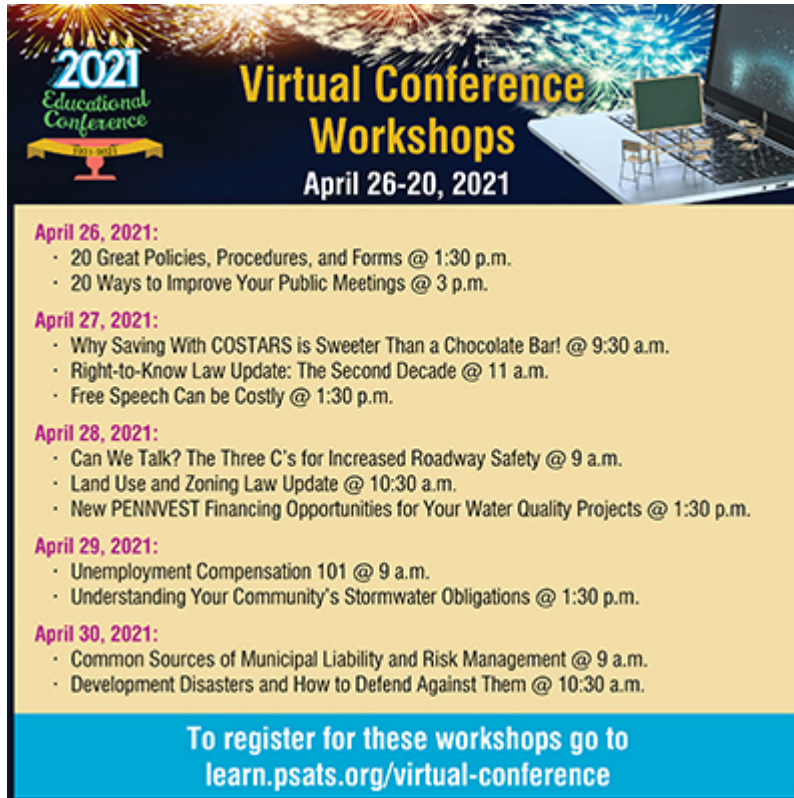
Pennsylvanians Passes 8 Million COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered

Just over two weeks since Pennsylvania made everyone 16 and older eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, the commonwealth has now administered 8.1 million vaccine doses and nearly 48% of eligible Pennsylvanians have received at least a first dose. More than 3.2 million Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated, and an additional 1.9 million Pennsylvanians have received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine series.

Nationally, more than 96 million people have been fully vaccinated. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania moved up to 14th for total doses administered per capita. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

Conference Virtual Workshops Start this Week!

This week is the start of the PSATS Conference Virtual Workshops. This is a snapshot of what is coming up this week. To view a the full list of workshops or to register, to go learn.psats.org/virtual-conference.



The image is a promotional graphic for the 2021 Educational Conference Virtual Conference Workshops. The top half features a dark background with a vibrant, colorful fireworks or light burst effect. On the left, there is a logo for the '2021 Educational Conference' with a small figure holding a torch. The main title 'Virtual Conference Workshops' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters, with the dates 'April 26-20, 2021' below it. The bottom half of the graphic is a light yellow box containing a list of workshops for each day from April 26 to April 30, 2021. At the very bottom, a blue banner contains the registration information.

2021 Educational Conference

Virtual Conference Workshops

April 26-20, 2021

April 26, 2021:

- 20 Great Policies, Procedures, and Forms @ 1:30 p.m.
- 20 Ways to Improve Your Public Meetings @ 3 p.m.

April 27, 2021:

- Why Saving With COSTARS is Sweeter Than a Chocolate Bar! @ 9:30 a.m.
- Right-to-Know Law Update: The Second Decade @ 11 a.m.
- Free Speech Can be Costly @ 1:30 p.m.

April 28, 2021:

- Can We Talk? The Three C's for Increased Roadway Safety @ 9 a.m.
- Land Use and Zoning Law Update @ 10:30 a.m.
- New PENNVEST Financing Opportunities for Your Water Quality Projects @ 1:30 p.m.

April 29, 2021:

- Unemployment Compensation 101 @ 9 a.m.
- Understanding Your Community's Stormwater Obligations @ 1:30 p.m.

April 30, 2021:

- Common Sources of Municipal Liability and Risk Management @ 9 a.m.
- Development Disasters and How to Defend Against Them @ 10:30 a.m.

To register for these workshops go to learn.psats.org/virtual-conference

National Superhero Day

Each year on April 28th, National Superhero Day honors superheroes, both real and fictional.

Superman, Wonder Woman, Black Panther, Captain America, Hulk, and Spiderman are just some of the superheroes whose names we recognize. Even though they are fictional, these superheroes provide role models for our children. They serve and protect while fighting evil.

Our real-life superheroes may not have superpowers or wear capes. However, just like fictional superheroes, children also look up to them as role models. They serve and protect their communities. These real-life superheroes also dedicate their lives to helping others, saving lives, or being a mentor. Township Supervisors, Military personnel, police officers, firefighters, and teachers are just a few of the heroes who protect us on a daily basis.

Legislation and Policy



The Senate will be in session today, April 28. Watch session live [here](#).

Right-to-Know Law Bills Approved by Committee: Contact Your Senator to Request Support!

Yesterday, the Senate State Government Committee approved two important Right-to-Know Law reforms, SB 312 and SB 552.

SB 312 would allow townships to charge a reasonable fee for commercial requests. A commercial purpose would include selling or reselling any portion of the records, using names and addresses from the records for commercial solicitation, or any other purposes which are intended to generate revenue. A commercial purpose would not include requests from the media, or nonprofit educational or noncommercial scientific institutions.

SB 552 would allow townships to petition the Office of Open Records for relief from a vexatious requester. A "vexatious requester" would be individuals who use the Right-to-Know Law with malicious intent to intimidate, harass, or punish an agency, resulting in wasting taxpayer dollars and resources.

Both bills are now before the Senate for their consideration. Contact your Senator today to request their support!

Login to your PSATS account and click on the "Grassroots Engagement Tool" on the PSATS Grassroots Network page under the legislative and policy tab and click on "take action" to contact your Senator. *This will include sample text for you to use as well as space for you to provide specific township examples.*

Questions can be directed to the Association at (717) 763-0930 or grassroots@psats.org. Thank you.

Agenda Legislation Moves Forward

The Senate State Government Committee also approved SB 554 which would amend the Sunshine Act to require agencies to post a meeting agenda containing

all items that will be voted on at least 24 hours before a meeting. This legislation would require the agenda to be posted on an agency's website, if it has one, or at its building and meeting place. An agency could vote to add unadvertised items to the agenda if a majority of the board present agrees.

SB 554 is now before the Senate.

Senate Passes Public-Private Partnership Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 382 (43-4) which would amend the Public-Private Transportation Partnership statute by adding a fixed notice requirement and a public comment period specific to the scope of projects to be undertaken. SB 382 would also authorize the General Assembly, within 20 calendar days or 9 legislative days, whichever is longer, to adopt a concurrent resolution rescinding the approval of a transportation project if the transportation facility that is the subject of the project is commonwealth-owned.

SB 382 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

[Land Use and Zoning Law Update - Virtual - 4/28/21](#)

Attend this session to learn about significant land use and zoning cases in Pennsylvania and changes and developments in related laws. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Development Disasters and How to Defend Against Them - Virtual - 4/30/21](#)

This session will explore how an approved, compliant land development can fail and what townships can do to protect themselves. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[New Uses & Zoning Regulations: What We Learned From 2020 - Virtual - 5/5/21](#)

This workshop will encourage participants to consider new uses that have evolved and their impact on townships. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[You Just Received a Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Now What? - Virtual - 5/10/21](#)

Attend this session, where the presenters will provide simple, straightforward guidance to help your township process these modules with confidence. [Click here](#) for more information.



[2021 PAAZO Spring Virtual Educational Forum - 4/23 & 30/ 2021](#)

This two-day virtual program explores issues that zoning officers, planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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