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April 5, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Township Winners in 2021 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence**

On Friday, the state Department of Community and Economic Development recognized municipalities and local government officials for their dedication and commitment to strengthen their communities and better serve their residents.

The following individual township supervisors were recognized: Kathy Rader, supervisor and PSATS Board member, Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, and Gene Miller, supervisor for Pinegrove Township, Venango County. Worcester Township in Montgomery County and Plainfield Township in Northampton County were also recognized. For the full list of award recipients, [click here](#). Winners will be recognized at a virtual ceremony on May 19.

"After being faced with an unprecedented pandemic that impacted communities across the state, this year's awards truly speak to and honor the resilience and proactive efforts of the inspiring Pennsylvania community leaders and groups that we are celebrating today," said Secretary of Community and Economic Development Dennis Davin.

### **Townships Talk Transportation – Join Us for PSATS' Transportation Town Hall!**

Be sure to join us this Thursday, **April 8, at 2:30 pm** for a discussion on township

transportation challenges and share your input and ideas on cost-saving opportunities, mandate relief requests, and future funding options for transportation. This input is critical to local governments' voices being heard on Gov. Tom Wolf's Transportation Revenue Options Commission, which includes PSATS Executive Director David Sanko as its local government representative. [Click here](#) to register. And remember, you can also offer input by emailing [roads@psats.org](mailto:roads@psats.org). And don't miss our new Transportation Tools page on the PSATS website!

### **Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Rise as Commonwealth Relaxes Standards**

Pennsylvania's COVID-19 case count and hospitalizations continue to rise as the commonwealth relaxed mitigation standards yesterday for restaurants and gatherings. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,038,749, with 29,195 new cases reported this week, a 16.5% increase over last week and an increase for the fourth week in a row. Across the state, 55 counties saw their weekly case total increase, while nine counties saw decreases, and two had no change. Nationwide, the highest growth in cases per 100,000 is now in Michigan, New Jersey, New York City, and New York State, with Pennsylvania at number eight.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has increased for the third week in a row, from 1,856 to 2,202, an 18.6% increase. 432 of these patients are in an ICU, up from 366 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased for the third week in a row, from 203 to 221.

After one week of increased total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania compared to the prior weeks, 202 deaths were reported this week, 5% less than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 25,188.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has increased for the third week in a row, from 7.6% to 9.4%. 10 counties now have rates less than 5% (*down from 17 last week*), 30 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*down from 34 last week*), 26 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*up from 16 last week*), and Cameron County now has 20%. [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

### **CDC Issues Updated Travel Guidance for Vaccinated People**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its guidance for people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, which is defined as two weeks after either a single-dose shot or the second shot of a two-shot series. Fully vaccinated people can resume domestic travel as a low-risk activity and do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.

Fully vaccinated people do not need to get tested before traveling internationally unless required by their destination or self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States. Fully vaccinated people should continue to wear a mask and take other precautions during travel.

### **State Police Release Updated Standards for Mobile Video Recording Systems**

The Pennsylvania State Police have published their approved list of equipment

standards for mobile video recording that may be used by law enforcement officers for the purpose of intercepting oral communication. [Click here](#) to read the standards and the comprehensive list of approved vehicle-mounted and non-vehicle-mounted systems.

#### **April 4-10 is National Library Week**

National Library Week (April 4-10, 2021) is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries and promote library use and support. This year's theme is "Welcome to Your Library." During the pandemic, libraries worked to meet their communities' demands and changing needs. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer endless opportunities through education and lifelong learning. To learn more, including resources for celebrating National Library Week, [click here](#).

#### **Gold Star Spouses Day**

Gold Star Spouses Day on April 5th honors the surviving loved ones of military service members killed in the line of duty.

The day offers remembrance for the spouses and their families and a time of recognition of their sacrifices. Many communities and organizations hold events showing support for Gold Star families on this day. Through ceremonies, teas, memorial races, and luncheons, they honor and remember fallen warriors.

The loss of our service members extends beyond the battlefield. They leave behind grieving wives and husbands who become members of an exclusive community no one asks to join. As a nation, our support, understanding, and respect are the least we can provide in return.

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

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## Legislation & Policy



The House will be in session today, April 5. Watch session live [here](#).

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## Learn

The education section of the morning news is getting an update. Webinars will be listed every Monday and each PMGA track will get its own day of the week. For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org/>.

### **[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.



### **[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.



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