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May 10, 2021

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## Latest News

### **PSATS Schedules Town Hall Update on Federal Funding Regulations**

Please join PSATS staff and Premier Partner Zelenkofske Axelrod for a Virtual Town Hall on Friday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m. to learn more about the U.S. Treasury regulations for American Rescue Plan funding, which are expected to be released today.

“The American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update” will discuss the ins and outs of Recovery Funding for townships. Nobody wants to get this wrong so join us for proper guidance on what is okay and how your expenditures need to be reported. The U.S. Treasury regulations will contain important details on how townships can use these funds, as well as reporting and compliance requirements. [Click here](#) to register!

### **PA's Budget Surplus Holds Steady**

Heading into budget season, the Commonwealth maintains a \$1.3B surplus. The Commonwealth collected \$4.0B in April tax receipts exceeded projections by \$28.2 M. The surplus is 4.2% over the 2020-21 budget and that is before counting the new multi-billion dollar stimulus funding from Washington, D.C.

### **U.S. Unemployment Rate Not Recovering**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has released national unemployment rates for April 2021. The U.S. unemployment rate for April increased slightly, from 6.0% to 6.1%. Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 266,000 in April, with notable job gains in leisure and hospitality, other services, and local education. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Wolf Signs Record 14th Opioid Disaster Declaration**

At a time when opioid challenges are rising to record levels, Gov. Tom Wolf signed the 14th renewal of his January 2018 opioid disaster declaration to help the state fight the opioid and heroin epidemic. [Click here](#) to learn about the steps taken to reduce the supply of opioids and increase services since the original declaration was signed.

### **May 9-15 is National Law Enforcement Week**

This week is National Law Enforcement Week, and the focus is on Officer Safety and Wellness. The goal is to keep law enforcement officers off the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial through daily morning workouts, a suicide prevention program, and more. To see the schedule of events for the week, [click here](#).

### **Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths Decrease**

Case counts decreased for the third week in a row, with 18,183 new cases of COVID-19 reported this week, 21% less than last week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,172,288. Across the state, 20 counties saw their weekly cases increase (*same as last week*), while 46 counties saw decreases (*compared to 47 last week*), and one county saw no change. Pennsylvania dropped to the fifth highest growth in cases per 100,000, with Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, and Maine making up the top four.

For the third week in a row, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has declined, from 2,161 to 1,924, an 11% decrease. 427 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 479 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased from 258 to 242.

After four weeks in a row of increasing deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, deaths decreased this week. 279 deaths were reported this week, 11% less than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 26,532.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has decreased for the third week in a row, from 7.6% to 6.6%. Nine counties now have rates of less than 5% (down from 12 last week), 48 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (up from 38 last week), and 10 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (down from 17 last week). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

### **Conference Virtual Workshops Week 3**

Can't get enough of PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop series? Here's what is on tap for week 3! To view the full list of workshops and to register, go to <https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference>.

**2021 Educational Conference**

**Virtual Conference Workshops**  
May 10-14, 2021

**May 10, 2021:**

- You Just Received a Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Now What? @ 1:30 p.m.
- Department of Agriculture Partnerships with Local Government @ 3 p.m.

**May 11, 2021:**

- Dealing With Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges @ 9:30 a.m.
- Grid Scale Solar Developments in Your Community @ 11 a.m.
- Claims of Racism at Your Doorstep: What is a Township to Do? @ 1:30 p.m.
- Squeezing the Most Out of Every Dollar @ 3 p.m.

**May 12, 2021:**

- Full Depth Reclamation to Upgrade Distressed Roads @ 9 a.m.
- Strategies for Community Revitalization @ 10:30 a.m.
- Building and Rebuilding - Public Trust in Local Government @ 3 p.m.

**May 13, 2021:**

- Municipal Bidding @ 9:30 a.m.
- Landslides, Rock Falls, Sinkholes, Mine Subsidence: Minimizing Geohazards @ 11 a.m.
- Understanding Real Estate Tax Collection @ 1:30 p.m.

**May 14, 2021:**

- That Day You DIDNT Make National Headlines! Creating Effective Police Policies @ 1 p.m.

To register for these workshops go to  
[learn.psats.org/virtual-conference](https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference)

### **National Women's Checkup Day**

National Women's Checkup Day on the second Monday in May each year focuses on the importance of regular routine visits for women.

As part of National Women's Health Week, the observance provides ways to help women take steps to maintain better health. Routine health checkups provide an opportunity to catch problems before they become unmanageable. Speaking with your physician about risk factors, early signs and symptoms and concerns can help to alleviate minor daily issues and identify issues to watch. Additionally, your physician can recommend screenings and order baseline tests that can be used for comparison at a later time.

Yearly well-woman visits are important and should include discussions of your health habits and family history, setting health goals, and scheduling or receiving screenings or necessary exams. Screening would include blood pressure, cholesterol, cervical cancer, and others.

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## Legislation & Policy



The Senate will be in session today, May 10. Watch session live [here](#).

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## Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety. Click on the title of the class for more information and to register.

### **[Webinar - New & Improved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs - 5/12/21](#)**

In this webinar, Tom Hughes, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's State Hazard Mitigation Officer, will review all of the improvements made to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant programs, cover eligible uses of grant funds, and highlight the ways that your township can benefit from the funding resources provided through those programs.



**[Webinar - Recent Developments in Cellular Antenna Regulations - 5/12/21](#)**

Dan Cohen and Mike Roberts of the Cohen Law Group will discuss recent federal and state developments regarding local regulation of wireless facilities and how municipalities can best prepare for requests to deploy wireless facilities both inside and outside the public rights-of-way.



**[Webinar - The Biggest Misconceptions about Public Sector Labor Law - 5/19/21](#)**

In this webinar, Ryan Cassidy and Scott Blissman of Eckert Seamans will review some of the biggest sources of confusion and frustration for municipalities when handling labor and HR issues.



**[Webinar - Planning for Land Use and Freight - 5/26/21](#)**

With e-commerce generating more distribution and fulfillment centers and delivery to nearly every property, the scope and importance of planning for land use and freight has greatly expanded.



**[Webinar - Row, Row, Row Your Boat: A Guide to Floodplain Management - 6/2/21](#)**

This webinar, presented by John Luciani of FirstCapital Engineering, Inc., will address the continuous improvement processes that need to be performed and how to address floodplain ordinance changes.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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