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June 1, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | From Virtual to In-Person, We've Got Training for You in June

Join us next week Tuesday and Thursday mornings for our virtual workshop on public safety essentials and then get ready for in-person training as "PSATS Live" returns to a location near you! Our ever-popular Regional Forums are starting in Erie in July and ending in Wilkes-Barre in November. PSATS will be sending more targeted information to you depending on the forum location nearest to you. Be sure to sign up, get back out there, interact with your peers, and learn something new in a classroom setting. (3:16)

Latest News

PSATS Releases Updated American Rescue Plan Fact Sheet

PSATS has released a newly updated American Rescue Plan Fact Sheet that incorporates the U.S. Treasury Department's Interim Final Rule, as well as additional guidance from Treasury released last week. Last week's guidance detailed how the states are to distribute the funds to non-entitlement communities (*municipalities with less than 50,000 population*). Township officials should discard previous versions of the fact sheet originally released in March 2021 and updated in April 2021. [Click here](#) for the newly updated fact sheet.

Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Mitigation Orders Are History

All Pennsylvania mitigation orders except for masking have been lifted. This includes restrictions on employers, businesses, and restaurants and limits on social distancing, gatherings, facility capacity, restaurant dining capacity, and employee safety requirements. [Click here](#) for more.

The governor's [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) remains in place for now. Township officials are reminded that Act 15 of 2020, which allows all local governments to conduct fully virtual or teleconference meetings, remains in place only while the governor's disaster emergency proclamation is in effect. Townships may conduct hybrid meetings, where the public is able to attend in person or virtually but not all supervisors are physically present, after the proclamation expires. While the current proclamation expires in August, township officials should make plans to transition to hybrid or in-person meetings by then in case the proclamation is not renewed.

The state Department of Health recommends that Pennsylvanians continue to refer to [Centers for Disease Control guidance](#) and recommendations for ongoing COVID-19 safety measures and procedures. Municipalities and school districts may impose stricter mitigation efforts for municipal property and their communities if they choose to do so.

Masking Order to Expire No Later Than June 28

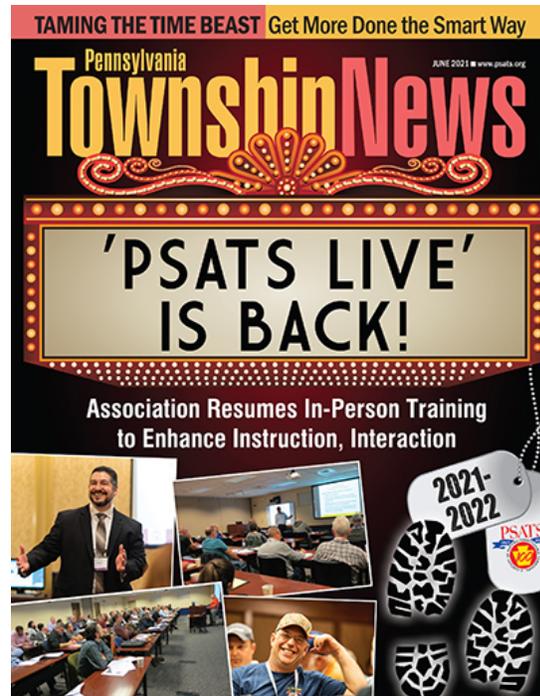
On Thursday, Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam announced that the state's masking order will be lifted when 70% of eligible Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated or June 28, whichever comes first. The change was made based on the number of Pennsylvania adults who have received at least one dose of vaccine. [Click here](#) for more.

Digital Version Now Available!

June Issue of the Township News Celebrates PSATS' Return to In-person Training

"PSATS Live" is back! In its June issue, the Township News reports on the Association's return to in-person training and upcoming opportunities for members to learn and interact. Other articles this month explore time management strategies, the latest guidance on the American Rescue Plan, engaging with data through digital story maps, enhancing safety as part of emergency preparedness, and the benefit of growing meadows on public land.

Subscribers to the News can access a digital copy by signing in to www.psats.org and clicking on "Digital Publications" under "My PSATS Profile." Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article [here](#) and learn how to subscribe to the News [here](#).



Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths Continue to Decrease

COVID case counts decreased for the sixth week in a row, with 6,362 new cases of COVID-19 reported this week, 36% less than last week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,201,375. Pennsylvania's new case rates are now comparable to the lows reached in September 2020.

Nationally, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are steadily trending downward. In fact, new cases nationally are now the lowest reported since March 2020. Pennsylvania dropped to the 14th highest growth in cases per 100,000, with Washington, Colorado, and Wyoming now making up the top three.

For the sixth week in a row, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has decreased from 1,261 to 1,028, an 18% decrease. 257 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 293 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased from 177 to 139.

Deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania also decreased this week. 174 deaths were reported this week, 38% less than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 27,203.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has decreased for the sixth week in a row, from 4.5% to 3.8% and the second week in a row below 5%. 39 counties now have rates of less than 5% (*up from 27 last week*), 26 counties have rates of 5% to

less than 10% (*down from 36 last week*), and two counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*down from four last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

On This Day in History.....

On June 1, 1849, Francis and Freelan Stanley were born. The inventive twin brothers are best known for the development of steam-powered cars. They successfully pitted their automobiles against gas-powered engines winning races across the country. Sounds like we have been here before!

[Click here](#) for Saturday's edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*

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.

PSATS Regional Forums

Come join peers from throughout your region to learn about and discuss a variety of township-related topics. This educational event will be the perfect opportunity to hear from experts on the **local issues** that matter to you and your municipality.



PSATS Northwest 2021 Regional Forum - 7/20/21 - Erie

PSATS Lehigh Valley 2021 Regional Forum - 7/28/21 - Breinigsville

PSATS Northcentral 2021 Regional Forum - 8/5/21 - Williamsport

PSATS Southcentral 2021 Regional Forum - 8/17/21 - Grantville

PSATS Southwest 2021 Regional Forum - 8/24/21 - Canonsburg

PSATS Southeast 2021 Regional Forum - 10/27/21 - Exton

PSATS Northeast 2021 Regional Forum - 11/10/21 - Wilkes-Barre

[2021 PSATS HR & Labor Management Institute - 9/23-24/21](#)

This day and a half class is a must-attend for anyone who has responsibility for HR and personnel management in their township.



2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar

In the Solicitors Fall Seminar learn from experts on a wide variety of topics critical to the practice of a municipal solicitor.

[2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar - 9/28/21 - West](#)

[2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar - 10/7/21 - Central](#)

[2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar - 11/4/21 - East](#)



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