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September 13, 2021

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## Latest News

### **PennDOT Accepting Multimodal Grant Applications**

The state Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for a new round of Multimodal Transportation Fund grants. Applications are due **November 5, 2021**. Townships and councils of governments may apply for these grants. Awards will be made next year and funded in July 2022.

Projects that will be considered should coordinate local land use with transportation assets to enhance existing communities; improve streetscape, lighting, sidewalk facilities, and pedestrian safety; improve connectivity or use of existing transportation systems; or advance transit-oriented-development. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **2022 Organization Meeting Date Clarified**

Townships' 2022 organization meeting date will be **Monday, January 3**, since the legal holiday for New Year's will be December 31, 2021. The Second Class Township Code requires the supervisors' organization meeting to be held on the first Monday in January unless the first Monday is a legal holiday. The board of auditors will meet on Tuesday, January 4.

### **Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalization Increase**

27,888 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in the state last week, a 12% increase compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,347,569. The commonwealth ranks 36th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with West Virginia, Kentucky, and South Carolina now making up the top three. While every state reported a high rate of transmission for the third week in a

row, case rates and hospitalizations are now declining nationally.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the eighth week in a row, from 1,927 to 2,183, an increase of 13%. 535 patients are in the ICU, an increase compared to the previous week's total of 514. Deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 28,566, with 171 new deaths reported this week, a decrease from the previous week's number.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the 10th week in a row, from 8.2% to 9.1%. No counties now have rates of less than 5% (*same as last week*), 25 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*same as last week*), 40 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*up from 39 last week*); one county has a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to three last week*), and one county has a rate of more than 30% (*compared to none last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

[Click here](#) for the latest issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

#### **Today in History.....**

On September 13, 1857, Milton Hershey was born. Before building a booming chocolate business, Hershey opened the Lancaster Caramel Company. After deciding to focus on chocolate, a decision nobody regrets, Hershey went on to build a community, factories, an amusement park for employees and later a school for orphaned boys to learn a trade. Today, the Hershey Trust is one of the most successful legacy projects in the United States.

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## Legislation & Policy



### **PSATS to Testify Before Joint House-Senate Local Government Committees**

PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes will testify today at a 10 a.m. joint hearing before the House and Senate Local Government Committees on local government experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to watch the hearing live.

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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.

### **[Webinar - Overtime and Other Employee Pay Issues - 9/15/21](#)**

This webinar will cover a variety of employee pay-related issues, including which of your township employees are eligible for overtime pay, when employees must be paid for on-the-clock and off-the-clock work, how to calculate overtime pay and much more, and the differences between state and federal laws governing employee pay.



### **[Webinar - Know Before You Dig - Geophysics 101 for Municipalities - 9/22/21](#)**

This presentation will provide you with a better understanding of beneficial applications for municipalities through real-life project examples and allow you to learn the benefits of using geophysics before a shovel ever hits the ground.



### **[Webinar - Everything You Need to Know about Township Vacancies - 9/29/21](#)**

In this webinar, we will discuss all of the tricky issues that arise when a vacancy occurs on a township board of supervisors, including accepting letters of registrations (or having letters of resignation withdrawn), calculating the timing of required actions and the process for convening the vacancy board.



**[Webinar - Perils of the Digital World: An Employer's Guide to Dealing with Data Breaches - 10/6/21](#)**

Data breaches are seemingly constantly reported in the news. And not only are municipal governments not immune...they are prime targets. In this webinar, learn about the most common ways that employers suffer from data breaches and best practices for how to put your township in position to avoid those breaches and respond in the event that a breach occurs.



**[Webinar - Hot Topics in Planning: Storefront Vacancies, Recovery, & Multifamily Impacts - 10/13/21](#)**

In this webinar, representatives of the Montgomery County Planning Commission will cover several new and emerging areas in the planning world and their efforts to address them.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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