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September 15, 2021

Latest News

DCED Business Waiver Process Flawed

Auditor General Timothy L. DeFoor has released a performance audit of the Wolf Administration's waiver process for businesses that asked to remain open early in the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 19, 2020, Gov. Tom Wolf ordered Pennsylvania businesses that were not categorized as "life-sustaining" to close to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Businesses could ask to remain open by applying for a waiver from the state Department of Community and Economic Development. Pennsylvania did not follow federal guidelines, preferring to repeatedly modify a more restrictive approach.

"This audit revealed a flawed process that provided inconsistent answers to business owners and caused confusion," DeFoor said. "While the pandemic certainly presented some unique challenges, the process was hastily assembled on the fly and unevenly administered and should be reformed before anything like it is ever used again." [Click here](#) for more.

Commonwealth Releases Data on Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated

The state Department of Health has released a report on COVID-19 post-vaccination cases, including the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the state that were seen in vaccinated and unvaccinated Pennsylvanians. Since January 2021, 95% of hospitalizations, 94% of reported cases, and 97% of deaths were in unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated people. [Click here](#) to learn more, including updates from several health systems on the types of patients currently needing hospitalization and intensive care.

Today in History....

On September 15, 1978, boxer Muhammad Ali defeats Leon Spinks at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans to win the world heavyweight boxing title for the third time in his career, the first fighter ever to do so. Following his victory, Ali retired from boxing, only to make a brief comeback two years later. Ali, who once claimed he could “float like a butterfly, sting like a bee,” left the sport permanently in 1981.

Learn

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

2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar

In the PAAZO Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal Zoning official. Specific agenda items will be updated when finalized.

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar - 10/19/21 - Central](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -10/21/21 - West](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -11/9/21 - East](#)



PSATS Zoning Academy - 12/7-9/21

The PSATS Zoning Academy is a multi-day class that is focused on providing attendees with a foundational understanding of all important aspects of zoning in Pennsylvania. This class will greatly benefit newer zoning officials, those looking to become zoning officials and municipal officials and employees seeking a better understanding of zoning's impact on municipal operations.



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