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October 25, 2021

Latest News

Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Drop

27,866 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a 10% decrease compared to the prior week for the second week in a row. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,538,296. The commonwealth fell to 18th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Alaska, Montana, and Wyoming remaining in the top three.

After thirteen straight weeks of increasing hospitalizations, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) decreased this week from 2,961 to 2,783, a decrease of 6%. 675 patients are in the ICU, a slight decrease compared to the previous week's 678. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 30,972, with 554 new deaths reported this week, an increase of 44 compared to the previous week.

After increasing for three straight weeks, Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate decreased from 9.7% to 9.2%. Two counties have a rate less than 5% (*up from one last week*), 18 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 14 last week*), 44 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 50 last week*); three counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to six last week*); no counties have a rate of at least 30% (*compared to two last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

PA Unemployment Rate at 6.2% in September

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for September was 6.2%, down from 6.4% in August, while the national unemployment rate is 4.8%. [Click here](#) for more.

Townships May Apply for Environmental Excellence Award

Townships that have created or participated in a project that promotes environmental stewardship in Pennsylvania may apply for a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications through December 1. For more information, visit the awards [webpage](#).

Today in History....

On October 25, 1853, members of the Paiute Indian Tribe attack U.S. Army Captain John W. Gunnison and his party of 37 soldiers and railroad surveyors near Sevier Lake, Utah. Gunnison and seven other men were killed, but the survey party continued with its work and eventually reported its findings to the United States Congress.

[Click here](#) for the latest issue 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.

[Webinar - Is Your Township Protected from Hackers? A Live Hacking Demonstration - 10/25/21](#)

During this webinar, representatives of IntermixIT will present a live hacking demonstration in which they show how hackers can breach accounts to gain credentials and other important information. They will also provide insights on how townships can best avoid getting hacked and exposing their valuable information and that of their residents.



[Webinar - How Capital Improvement Plans Position You to Maximize ROI and Reduce Costs - 10/27/21](#)

With a capital improvement plan, municipalities can take the guesswork out of infrastructure investment, identify their highest priority needs, and ensure they have the funds in place for repair and replacement before failure or regulatory action puts them at risk.



[Webinar - Best Practices for Conducting Preliminary Damage Assessments - 11/3/21](#)

In this webinar, Tom Hughes with PEMA will review best practices for damage assessments and review the path forward for PEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.



[Webinar - Maximizing Your COVID Relief Funds through Facilities Projects - 11/9/21](#)

This session will walk you through options for leveraging your funding into lasting, impactful facilities projects that will become valuable township assets.



[Webinar - Efficiencies in Park and Open Space Management - 11/10/21](#)

Designed to emphasize the importance of parks and public open space as essential elements in community infrastructure, this webinar will highlight opportunities for land managers to improve maintenance, operational efficiencies, and sustainability efforts.



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