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November 22, 2021

Latest News

CDC, FDA Expand Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots

The Centers for Disease Control and U.S. Food and Drug Administration have expanded those eligible to receive booster shots for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to anyone 18 and older who received their second dose of one of these vaccines at least six months ago. [Click here](#) for more.

Multimodal Transportation Grants Awarded

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced the award of \$84 million for 166 new projects in 54 counties through the Multimodal Transportation Fund. Member townships received more than 40 of these grant awards. [Click here](#) for more.

Act 13 Grants Awarded

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced the award of \$10.4 million in Act 13 money for 100 new environmental and infrastructure projects in 38 counties through the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Member townships received more than a dozen of these grant awards. [Click here](#) for more.

PUC Directs Sunoco to Take Actions Involving Mariner East Pipelines

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has directed Sunoco Pipeline to take certain reasonable actions to protect public safety regarding the construction and operation of the Mariner East Pipelines, addressing complaints filed against the pipeline operator. Most of these actions affect pipelines in Chester and Delaware counties. [Click here](#) for the details of the PUC order.

PUC Approves \$2 Million Settlement for 2018 Pipeline Failure in Beaver County

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has approved a settlement related to a 2018 pipeline failure and fire in Beaver County involving the “Revolution Pipeline,” resulting in nearly \$2 million in civil penalties and additional preventative measures required by the pipeline operator. [Click here](#) for more.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases Decline While Hospitalizations Rise

After two weeks of increasing cases, 41,321 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a 19% decrease compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,686,169. The commonwealth remains at 20th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Michigan, Minnesota, and New Mexico now in the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the second week in a row, from 2,626 to 3,097, or 18%. 734 patients are in the ICU, an increase compared to the previous week’s 606. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 32,924, with 523 new deaths reported this week, an increase compared to the previous week.

Pennsylvania’s statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the third week in a row from 10.3% to 11.7%. One county has a rate less than 5% (compared to two last week), nine counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (compared to 11 last week), 42 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (compared to 44 last week), 14 counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (compared to nine last week), and one county has a rate higher than 30% (compared to one last week). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

PA Unemployment Rate at 6% in October

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania’s unemployment rate for October was 6%, down from 6.2% in September, while the national unemployment rate is 4.6%. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History....

On November 22, 1963, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, is assassinated while traveling through Dallas, Texas, in an open-top convertible.

[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 - Preparing for an Audit of ARPA Expenditures: What to Do Now - 11/22/21](#)

This webinar is designed to address the potential audit of township expenditures of ARPA funds by the federal government.



[Webinar - The ABCs of Liquid Fuels Tax Funds - 11/23/21](#)

Attend this session to learn the basics about liquid fuels funding, including how it's allocated, what can be purchased, and where townships can turn for support and assistance.



[Webinar - Vehicle Automation and What Townships Should Know - 12/1/21](#)

Join representatives of PennDOT as they share information about the current status of AV testing in Pennsylvania and what townships should know so that they and their residents can be better prepared for AVs.



[Webinar - Are You Prepared for Your 2022 Organizational Meeting? - 12/2/21](#)

If you are unsure whether you have everything ready for your township's 2021 Organization Meeting, required to be held the first Monday of January, then make sure to attend this webinar.



Webinar - The Benefits of Grid-Independent Solar for Municipalities - 12/8/21

In this webinar, Jason Wert with RETTEW will review the many benefits – financial, long-term resiliency, and sustainability – that grid-independent solar operations can bring municipalities and municipal authorities.



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