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December 13, 2021

Latest News

Inflation Hits Records

Prices continue to rise and the national [Consumer Price Index for November 2021](#) showed that the index rose 6.8% for the 12 months ending November, the largest 12-month increase since June 1982. The [CPI for the Northeast Region](#) is up 6% since November 2020. In both cases, energy and gasoline are seeing the highest increases, followed by food. It is the sixth straight month in which inflation topped 5%. Stay tuned to see how the Fed reacts to the information from the most recent report.

Minimum Training Requirements for New CDL Drivers

Any person wanting to obtain their first CDL Class A or Class B license, or who wants to upgrade a Class B license to a Class A license, on or after February 7, 2022, must take specific training from authorized training providers as part of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) goal of ensuring that only qualified drivers are issued CDL licenses by state driver's license agencies, such as PennDOT. Click [here](#) for more information and FAQs on this rule. The list of available training providers will be released on February 7, 2022.

Despite Increases, Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Less than December 2020

58,591 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week in Pennsylvania, an increase of 10% and an increase for the second consecutive week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,837,742. The commonwealth is 14th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Minnesota now in the top three.

Weekly case rates in Pennsylvania are 15% lower than the same time in December 2020, hospitalizations are 25% lower, and deaths are 39% less than this week last year. It is one year since the first vaccines began to be distributed.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the fifth week in a row from 4,106 to 4,501, or 9%. 942 patients are in the ICU, an increase compared to the previous week's 885. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 34,616 with 714 new deaths reported this week.

After five straight weeks of increases, Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate decreased from 15.3% to 14.4%. No county has a rate less than 5% (*compared to none last week*); four counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to seven last week*); 41 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 31 last week*); 22 counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to 25 last week*); no county has a rate higher than 30% (*compared to four last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Today in History...

On December 13, 2003, after spending nine months on the run, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was captured. Saddam's downfall began on March 20, 2003, when the United States led an invasion force into Iraq to topple his government, which had controlled the country for more than 20 years.

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

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, December 13. Watch session live [here](#).

Learn

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

[Webinar - Understanding And Navigating PA's New Unemployment Compensation Website - 12/15/21](#)

This webinar will help townships better navigate the Department of Labor & Industry's new unemployment compensation filing website.



[Webinar - Right-To-Know Law Q & A - 12/16/21](#)

This webinar is your opportunity to get answers to all of your Right-to-Know Law-related questions (or stump the presenters!).



[Webinar - Everything You Wanted to Know About Your VFD - But Were Afraid to Ask - 1/5/22](#)

This conversation will outline some of the forces converging on today's volunteers and will focus on offering solutions for the community and its first responders to move forward together towards adequate and affordable public safety services.



[Webinar - Should We Have an Ordinance for That? - 1/12/22](#)

In this webinar, representatives from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will review key issues that are important to your township's comprehensive planning and implementation efforts (using Susquehanna Township as an example), including infrastructure, land development, open space,



housing/building stock, cultural resources, and transportation.

[Webinar - Our Board is Divided – What Now? - 1/19/22](#)

In this webinar, we will discuss a variety of common “divided board” issues, including filling vacancies on the board of supervisors, what to do when a supervisor abstains from voting to avoid controversial issues, the role of the chair in bringing order to the meeting, and the rights of supervisors to address topics that are not on the agenda.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025