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December 20, 2021

Latest News

2022 Bid, Quote Limits Set

The state Department of Labor & Industry published notice of the 2022 bid limits in the [December 18, 2021](#), issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. On January 1, 2022, the minimum purchase amount that will require the advertisement for bids will increase from **\$21,300 to \$21,900**. In addition, the minimum purchase amount for telephone quotes will increase from **\$11,500 to \$11,800**. While the increase in the consumer price index was 5.4% for the 12-month period ending September 30, there is an annual cap of 3% on increases to these limits.

2022 IRS Mileage Rates Announced

The Internal Revenue Service has [issued the 2022 standard mileage](#) rate for the business use of a vehicle. The 2022 rate will be 58.5 cents per mile. A township board of supervisors may establish a mileage rate for use of personal vehicles for township business, provided that it is no higher than the IRS rate.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Slow

52,517 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week in Pennsylvania, a decrease of 10% compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,890,259. The commonwealth ranks 13th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts now in the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the sixth week in a row from 4,501 to 4,527. 933 patients are in the ICU, a decrease compared to the previous week's 942. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have

reached 35,398 with 782 new deaths reported this week. There are 7 Omicron cases in PA and no deaths.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate stayed at 14.4% this week. No county has a rate less than 5% (*compared to none last week*); five counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to four last week*); 47 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 41 last week*); and 15 counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to 22 last week*).

[Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

PA Unemployment Rate Dropped to 5.7% in November

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for November was 5.7%, down from 6% in October, while the national unemployment rate is 4.2%. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History.....

On December 20, 1957, while spending the Christmas holidays at Graceland, his newly purchased Tennessee mansion, rock-and-roll star Elvis Presley receives his draft notice for the United States Army.

[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 - 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.



[Webinar - What USDA Rural Development Can Do for Your Townships - 1/25/22](#)

In this webinar, you will learn about how your township can benefit from more than 50 loan and grant programs administered by USDA.



[Webinar - Stormwater Management: An Annoying Requirement, Simplified - 1/26/22](#)

This webinar is designed to provide participants with an overview of the challenges and best practices associated with managing a township’s many stormwater-related responsibilities – in a way that is user friendly and easy to understand.



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