Monday, October 19, 2020

Wolf Vetoes Restaurant Reopening Bill
Wolf vetoed HB 2513, which would have allowed all restaurants to operate at 50% indoor capacity or greater, reopened bar service, eliminated the requirement to purchase meals with alcoholic beverages, and allowed the Liquor Control Board to temporarily extend the licensed premises to outdoor dining areas upon request. Wolf claimed the bill would endanger public health and safety. The General Assembly may attempt to override the veto if it has the votes to do so. To read the bill, [click here](#). To read the governor’s veto message, [click here](#).

Daily PA COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Increase
The statewide COVID case total now stands at 180,943, while the total deaths attributed to COVID-19 have reached 8,466. As of Saturday, Pennsylvania had reported 12 straight days of more than 1,000 daily cases. At 1,397, new average per-day positive COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania have increased by 19% compared to the prior week’s per-day rate of 1,172. Pennsylvania’s statewide percent-positivity has increased from 3.9% to 4.3% but remains below the recommended rate of 5%.

The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania saw an increase for the fourth week in a row from 706 to 841 and the number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased slightly from 90 to 93. While hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have more than doubled in the last month, COVID-19 hospitalizations remain at a fraction of capacity and well below rates in April.

On Friday, the commonwealth identified a number of counties as having percent-positivity rates of 5% or more for the past week and as such, will carefully monitor these counties, which include Armstrong (new), Bedford (new), Berks, Blair (new), Bradford, Carbon (new), Centre, Dauphin (new), Elk (new), Huntingdon, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lebanon, Luzerne (new), Montour, Perry (new), Schuylkill, Susquehanna (new), Tioga (new), and Westmoreland. Townships should note that Fulton, Northumberland, and Potter counties saw their percent-positivity rates drop under 5% last week and were removed from the state’s “watch” list. [Click here](#) for more.