



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Wolf Weighs Targeted Restrictions as Cases Pass 200,000

Yesterday's increase of 2,228 additional positive cases brought the total statewide cases to 200,674. As daily positivity increases are now comparable to April 2020, Gov. Tom Wolf noted that he would consider targeted restrictions. While he has no plans for a second shutdown, he has not ruled it out either. Hospitalization numbers remain well below spring numbers and capacity numbers.

Both state and federal officials attribute the case increases in Pennsylvania and across the nation to small gatherings of friends and families that have moved indoors due to cooler weather and where masking and social distancing is practiced. This is becoming an increasing concern as the holidays approach and Americans are being encouraged to rethink holiday gatherings during the pandemic. [Click here](#) for more on how to reduce risk during the holidays.

LCB Waives 2021 Liquor License Fees, Local Share

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board approved, by a vote of 2-1, the waiver of an estimated \$27.7 million in license fees in 2021 for retail licensees most impacted by the pandemic, including holders of restaurant, retail dispenser, club, catering club, and hotel licenses. LCB Board member Mike Negra, who made the dissenting vote, argued that the LCB did not have the authority to waive the fees.

About \$4 million of the waived fees would have gone to host municipalities. To help townships determine the impact of the waiver on their budgets, [click here](#) for past municipal license fee disbursements. Due to the collection timeframe, townships should receive a partial payment by March 2021, but no payment in September 2021. The March 2022 payment would be a partial payment. PSATS will be asking the legislature to offset this lost revenue. To learn more about the waiver, [click here](#).

Department of Agriculture Releases COVID-19 Restaurant Enforcement Numbers

The state Department of Agriculture has released COVID-19 restaurant enforcement actions taken. During the week of October 19 to 25, the Bureau of Food Safety issued one formal warning letters and no citations after performing 653 total inspections, 46 of which were complaint-driven and 15 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The Department has not issued a citation in five weeks. The bureau distributed 61 COVID-19 complaint-driven education letters and referred 19 COVID-19-related complaints to local and county health departments. A county-by-county breakdown can be found by [clicking here](#).

PSP Continues to Cite Liquor Violations

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 729 licensed liquor establishments from Monday, October 19, through Sunday, October 25, to ensure that businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements that include social distancing, masking, and other health and safety requirements of the Liquor Code.

Officers issued 99 warnings and 16 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements during this time frame. That brings the total violation count to 239 over the last 117 days (*about 2 per day statewide*). To view a summary of the number of checks and warnings issued by enforcement officers since July 1, [click here](#) and scroll down.