



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

PSATS Daily COVID-19 News

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Commonwealth Reviews State, Local Enforcement of COVID-19 Mitigation

The Commonwealth reviewed state and local enforcement of current mitigation orders to restrict the transmission of COVID-19 and noted that residents may report suspected violations of these orders to keep people safe. This includes the state's Worker Safety, Building Safety, Universal Masking, and July 15 mitigation orders. These orders are enforceable under state law by all state and local law enforcement agencies.

Complaints of non-compliance may be filed with the Department of Health's COVID-19 complaint form, [available here](#). The submissions are vetted and followed up on by the Department or referred to the PSP, local law enforcement, or appropriate agency for investigation. Reports of restaurants that are not following state orders may be reported to the Department of Agriculture or appropriate local health department. For more information on restaurant oversight, [click here](#).

Local police departments have discretion whether to warn or cite a business for violations. Citations may be written under the Administrative Code of 1929 71 P. S. § 1409 and/or the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955 35 P.S. § 521.20(a). The decision whether to issue a warning or a citation is made on a case-by-case basis and determined by the unique circumstances of each encounter. [Click here](#) for more, including links to the current orders and legal citations.

PSP Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement Update

The Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement announced that its officers visited 5,163 licensed liquor establishments July 22-28 to ensure that businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements. During these visits, officers issued 132 warnings and one citation for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements. Since July 1, the highest number of warnings have been issued by the Pittsburgh Enforcement Office at 76, followed by Harrisburg at 73. To view a summary of the number of checks and warnings issued by enforcement officers, [click here](#).

US DOT Releases Applicant Toolkit for Rural Transportation Funding

The U.S. Department of Transportation has a new Applicant Toolkit to provide help rural communities find and apply for transportation funding as part of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative. The toolkit is designed for all levels of grant applicant experience. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

Mental Wellness Support Available for Firefighters, EMS Personnel

State Fire Commissioner Bruce Trego announced the launch of several new online training resources designed to provide mental wellness resources for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel.

Left unaddressed, mental and behavioral stress can interfere with day-to-day life and result in diagnosable mental illnesses. Unfortunately, the most serious consequence of untreated behavioral health problems is the risk of suicide. “Continuing to ignore the mental health of first responders is simply not an option,” Trego said. “The costs are too great.”

Four courses are now available at no cost to PA fire and EMS personnel by [clicking here](#) and registering for a Train PA account. Courses cover a variety of topics, including Being a First Responder During a Global Pandemic, Had a Bad Call?, How to Better Support Your Fellow First Responders, and Capturing the Load.

EPA Takes Action to Address PFAS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is taking action to address per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This includes developing new policies on the disposal and monitoring of these substances and a proposed new rule that would require notice and EPA review before the use of long-chain PFAS, which have been phased out in the U.S., could begin again. In addition, products containing certain PFAS used as a surface coating and carpets can no longer be imported without EPA review. [Click here](#) to learn more.