



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

PSATS Daily COVID-19 News

Tuesday Morning, August 4, 2020

BREAKING NEWS: 2020 Census Deadline Moved Up to September 30

Last night, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that it was moving up the deadline to complete field data collection to September 30, a month earlier than planned. This new deadline (moved up from October 31) applies to both self-reporting and field collection efforts. With the tighter deadline, it is now more important than ever for township officials to encourage residents who have not responded to do so as soon as possible.

To be counted, households must complete the survey by September 30. Please alert your residents to this new deadline and urge them to make sure they complete their census and cooperate with census takers who come to their door. Your township's population count for the next decade is at stake!

Lack of internet access combined with the planned reduced time commitments of canvassers is pointing to low response rates. Spread the word to your township residents and start the Census Bureau's "Shape Your Future" challenge! I pledge to complete the 2020 Census and I am challenging you to do the same. #ShapeYourFuture
Let's work together to get EVERYONE counted in the 2020 Census!

National Night Out...today for some, Oct for 6 for Others

The National Association of Town Watch sponsors National Night Out annually on the first Tuesday in August. However, due to the pandemic, the national organization has encouraged groups to modify their plans.

"National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are strongly recommending that all National Night Out 2020 areas celebrate on October 6th, the first Tuesday in October."

In Pennsylvania, some municipalities are still holding events today on Aug. 4, while some have canceled, and others have rescheduled until Oct. 6. PSATS encourages you to participate in this community building event to connect your residents to law enforcement to further foster safe communities.

Daily Counts from State Health Department

The state Health Department reported 565 new cases on Monday bringing the total case count to 114,155. For the first time since March, there were no attributable deaths recorded Monday. 18 counties reported zero new cases while Sullivan County has not had a new case for 30 days. Greene county did record its first death over the weekend.

Warnings, Not Tickets Play Role in Education and Enforcement of COVID-19 Directives

Governor Wolf visited the Susquehanna Township Police headquarters yesterday to discuss the important roles education and understanding play in the enforcement of the various COVID-19 mitigation efforts across the state.

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“We have to do everything we can to keep our communities safe and healthy, including wearing a mask and following mitigation orders so our businesses operate safely,” Gov. Wolf said. “We have the ability to enforce these rules, and we are going to continue to work closely with commonwealth agencies and local officials to enforce public safety orders.”

The governor was joined by representatives of commonwealth agencies and local law enforcement involved in mitigation order enforcement, including Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, Pennsylvania State Police Lt. Col. Scott Price, and Susquehanna Township Chief of Police Rob Martin.

Each representative focused on the role their agency plays in education and enforcement of the various orders in place to keep Pennsylvanians safe and stop the spread of COVID-19. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

State Police Liquor Control Enforcement July 31 – August 2: 1,262 Checks, Three Violations

Pennsylvania State Police Liquor Control Enforcement Officers visited 1,262 licensed liquor establishments from Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2 to ensure businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements that include social distancing, masking, and other health and safety requirements of the liquor code.

Liquor Control Enforcement Officers issued 52 warnings and 3 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements. See chart below...

Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement July 31 – August 2, 2020			
<u>ENFORCEMENT OFFICE</u>	TOTAL LICENSEE CHECKS	WARNINGS RELATED TO COVID-19 MITIGATION EFFORTS	NOTICES OF VIOLATION RELATED TO COVID-19 MITIGATION EFFORTS
1-Philadelphia	34	0	0
2-Wilkes-Barre	255	2	2
3-Harrisburg	85	10	0
4-Pittsburgh	421	15	0
5-Altoona	104	10	1
6-Williamsport	64	4	0
7-Punxsutawney	90	6	0
8-Erie	50	2	0
9-Allentown	159	3	0
TOTALS	1,262	52	3

PSATS Joins Coalition Urging Pennsylvania’s Congressional Delegation to Enact Temporary Liability Protections

A broad-based coalition representing industries, employers and local governments throughout Pennsylvania yesterday sent a letter to Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation urging support for much needed and long overdue liability protections for those complying with health and safety guidelines.

The letter urges support for protections for the business, nonprofit, education, and health care communities, among others, that are provided in the “SAFE TO WORK” Act, which was introduced in the U.S. Senate and offers fair protection against unwarranted pandemic-related lawsuits but does not preclude appropriate action against bad actors or those acting irresponsibly.

[Click here](#) to view the letter.

Independent Fiscal Office Releases Monthly Revenue

For the month of July, state general fund collections were \$4.10 billion and \$1.77 billion (76.2 percent) above collections for July 2019. Roughly \$1.62 billion of the increase was associated with extended tax due dates related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Excluding this shift, July monthly collections exceeded the prior year total by \$154.8 million, or 6.6 percent.

Personal income tax collections for July were \$2.31 billion, an increase of \$1.29 billion (126.1 percent) above the prior year. The growth was entirely attributable to the virus-related extension of final (tax year 2019) and estimated (tax year 2020) payments from April and June to July.

Monthly sales and use tax revenues increased \$330.3 million (35.7 percent) from July 2019. The IFO estimates that \$160 million of the increase in non-motor vehicle sales and use taxes was attributable to the prepayment requirement, which was temporarily suspended but resumed in July. These collections grew at a rate of 5.2 percent after adjusting for the prepayment change and a one-time large transfer that occurred last July.

The Independent Fiscal Office report can be viewed [here](#).

Luzerne County Announces COVID-19 Relief Program; Luzerne County Townships Encouraged to Apply Today!

Luzerne County has been granted approximately \$28 million from state and federal funds to invest in COVID-19-related projects in Luzerne County. An allocation of \$5 million has been set aside for Luzerne County municipalities for COVID-related expenses. Funds must be used specifically “to prepare for, to plan for, and to respond to the coronavirus.” Grant monies have been allocated to Luzerne County municipalities on a per capita basis.

Applications will be accepted until September 4, 2020; however, it is recommended that you submit your application before that date. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

PSATS reminds everyone to check with your county commissioners on how to access funding for your community.