PSATS Daily COVID-19 News

Thursday, September 10, 2020

HHS Authorizes Pharmacists, Interns to Administer COVID-19 Vaccinations
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued guidance for safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines when they become available. The guidance authorizes state-licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 vaccinations to those age 3 or older, subject to certain requirements. Pharmacy interns may also administer vaccines under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist.

The authorization preempts any state or local laws that would prohibit those who satisfy these requirements from ordering or administering COVID-19 vaccinations as provided. It does not preempt any state or local laws that allow additional individuals to administer these vaccines.

Department of Agriculture Releases COVID-19 Restaurant Enforcement Numbers
The state Department of Agriculture has released COVID-19 restaurant enforcement actions taken from August 31 to September 6. The information is specific to COVID-19 mitigation requirements for restaurants, including social distancing, masking, and occupancy limits. These numbers include actions taken during routine safety inspections and those prompted by complaints.

During this week, the Bureau of Food Safety issued three formal warning letters and four citations after performing 607 total inspections, 30 of which were complaint-driven and 15 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The bureau distributed 69 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.

State Police Liquor Control Officers Issue Violation Notices and Warnings
Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 3,538 licensed liquor establishments from Wednesday, September 2, through Tuesday, September 8, 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 64 warnings and 27 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements during this time frame. That brings the total violation count to 106 over the last 70 days (about 1.5 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.

USDA Updates Federal Resources for Rural Communities
Rural townships looking for resources to help their residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with housing and utility assistance can find them online. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently updated its COVID assistance guide to include the CDC moratorium on residential tenant evictions. To learn more, click here.