Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Department of Health States That Many COVID Mitigation Measures Remain in Place
State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine stated yesterday that despite a recent federal court decision declaring some of Gov. Tom Wolf’s COVID mitigation orders unconstitutional (crowd sizes and prohibited gatherings), other mitigation measures remain in place. This includes mask-wearing and worker, building, and hospital safety orders. The ruling also does not impact business occupancy restrictions currently in place, including those for restaurants. Gov. Wolf affirmed his intention to appeal the decision.

The secretary also released the department’s August 2020 nursing home report. During August, nursing home surveyors conducted 635 inspections of nursing homes, including 379 complaint investigations, 522 of which were COVID-19 specific. Nine sanctions were finalized against nursing home facilities, including the issuance of two provisional licenses and civil penalties totaling $84,125.

Townships Should Display Federal Coronavirus Leave Poster
Townships should be aware that the U.S. Department of Labor has a labor law poster on employee rights regarding the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which provides for up to two weeks of paid sick leave for qualifying reasons related to COVID-19. Townships should display the poster with other required state and federal labor law posters. The poster is available from the department free of charge by clicking here. To learn more about the paid leave requirements, 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 period of September 7-13. 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 two formal warning letters and no citations after performing 520 total inspections, 27 of which were complaint-driven and 12 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The bureau distributed 36 COVID-19 complaint-driven education letters and referred five COVID-19-related complaints to local and county health departments. A county-by-county breakdown can be found by clicking here.