



May 4, 2020 – Issue 106

Gov. Wolf Announces Reopening of 24 Counties Beginning May 8

Balancing economic benefits and public health risks, Governor Tom Wolf today announced the reopening of 24 counties in the northwest and north-central regions of the state, moving them from red to yellow beginning at 12:01 a.m., Friday, May 8.

"Over the past two months, Pennsylvanians in every corner of our commonwealth have acted collectively to stop the spread of COVID-19," Gov. Wolf said. "We have seen our new case numbers stabilize statewide and while we still have areas where outbreaks are occurring, we also have many areas that have few or no new cases."

Counties Moving to Yellow Reopening

The 24 counties that will move from red to yellow on May 8 are: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, Venango, and Warren.

These counties were deemed ready to move to a reopening - or yellow phase - because of low per-capita case counts, the ability to conduct contact tracing and testing, and appropriate population density to contain community spread.

Decision Process

The administration partnered with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to create a **Risk-Based Decision Support Tool** <https://www.scribd.com/document/459345536/CMU-Risk-Based-Decision-Support-Tool> that enables decision makers to strike a balance between maximizing the results of our economy while minimizing public health risks.

The CMU tool looked at the impacts of risk factors such as reported number of COVID cases per population of an area; ICU and medical/surgical bed capacity; population density; population over age 60; re-opening contact risk, such as the number of workers employed in a currently closed industry sector.

The CMU metrics were considered along with the county's or region's ability to conduct testing and contact-tracing to first and foremost maintain robust public health.

The Department of Health developed **testing** <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Testing-Strategy.aspx> and **contact-tracing plans** <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Contact-Tracing.aspx> that informed today's decisions and will be used in making decisions moving forward. Factors include: having enough testing available for individuals with symptoms and target populations such as those at high risk, health care personnel, and first responders, and the ability to perform robust case investigation and have in place a contact-tracing infrastructure that can quickly identify a cluster of outbreaks to issue any necessary isolation and quarantine orders.

All reopening decisions follow the six standards <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/> outlined in the governor's plan to reopen Pennsylvania. These include adhering to:

- Data-driven and quantifiable criteria to drive a targeted, evidence-based, regional approach to reopening.
- Clear guidance and recommendations for employers, individuals, and health care facilities and providers for assured accountability.
- Adequate and available personal protective equipment and diagnostic testing.
- A monitoring and surveillance program that allows the commonwealth to deploy swift actions for containment or mitigation.
- Protections for vulnerable populations such as limitations on visitors to congregate care facilities and prisons.
- Limitations on large gatherings unrelated to occupations.

"Our goal since this pandemic was first identified in Pennsylvania has been to save lives while ensuring that the public health system does not become overwhelmed with people suffering from COVID-19," Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine said. "Our contact tracing and testing plans will ensure that as we begin to resume our daily activities, we can do so safely and without fear."

While both Gov. Wolf and Dr. Levine cautioned that we cannot be certain of the path of the virus, all decisions on partial reopening are driven first by prioritizing the health and safety of Pennsylvanians.

Defining the Yellow Phase

As regions or counties move into the yellow phase, some restrictions on work and social interaction will ease while others, such as closures of schools, gyms, and other indoor recreation centers, hair and nail salons, as well as limitations around large gatherings, remain in place.

On Monday, May 4, the administration will release guidance for businesses permitted to reopen on May 8 in these 24 counties. The guidance is being developed through collaboration with the affected counties, Team PA, the Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of Labor & Industry, among others. Guidance will build on existing safety and building safety orders released in April.

Work & Congregate Setting Restrictions

- Telework Must Continue Where Feasible
- Businesses with In-Person Operations Must Follow Business and Building Safety Orders
- Child Care Open Complying with Guidance
- Congregate Care and Prison Restrictions in Place
- Schools Remain Closed for In-Person Instruction

Social Restrictions

- Stay at Home Order Lifted for Aggressive Mitigation
- Large Gatherings of More than 25 Prohibited
- In-Person Retail Allowable, Curbside and Delivery Preferable
- Indoor Recreation, Health and Wellness Facilities and Personal Care Services (such as gyms, spas, hair salons, nail salons and other entities that provide massage therapy), and all Entertainment (such as casinos, theaters) Remain Closed

- Restaurants and Bars Limited to Carry-Out and Delivery Only

All businesses not specifically mentioned as restricted from reopening may reopen if they follow the forthcoming guidance.

Moving Forward

Gov. Wolf stressed the need for all Pennsylvanians to now, more than ever, take personal responsibility for their actions.

"Every human-to-human contact is a chance for the virus to spread, so more contacts mean a higher likelihood of an outbreak," Wolf said. "If we see an outbreak occur in one of the communities that has been moved to yellow, we will need to take swift action, and revert to the red category until the new case count falls again. So, Pennsylvanians living in a county that has been moved to the yellow category should continue to strongly consider the impact of their actions."

Counties that will remain under the stay-at-home order will be considered for reopening in the next several weeks as the state continues to closely monitor metrics and collaborate with CMU, health experts and counties.

The **full reopening plan** is available here <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 5/1/2020

House Government Oversight Committee to Investigate Business Closures as Part of COVID-19 Response

There are a lot of questions arising from Gov. Tom Wolf's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, one of which is the business closures and the waiver system to allow certain businesses to remain operational. To seek answers

to these questions, Wolf suggested the House Government Oversight Committee be tasked with investigating the closures and the non-standard waiver process, Rep. Seth Grove (R-Dover), chairman of the committee, announced today.

"It didn't take long for my phone to start ringing with calls from concerned business owners after Wolf abruptly announced on March 19 the closure of all non-life-sustaining business," Grove said. "I, like all other representatives who received nearly identical calls, didn't have answers to the questions business owners had."

Since the announcement of the closures, a lot of the questions from the public and members of the General Assembly had went unanswered by the administration. The ensuing waiver system, which didn't appear to follow any set of standards, also created more questions, which, again, went unanswered by the administration. During its investigation, the House Government Oversight will seek answers to these questions.

"A second wave of COVID-19 is forecast to hit in the fall and potential third wave later," Grove noted. "We have a short window of time to seek answers to these questions, so the same mistakes aren't repeated if mitigation measures are taken again."

The House Government Oversight Committee will release its report in the coming months. The nine-member committee is tasked with investigating matters regarding state government and agencies referred by the speaker, majority leader or minority leader.

Source: Rep. Seth Grove Press Release, 4/24/2020

Revenue Department Releases April 2020 Collections

Pennsylvania collected \$2.2 billion in General Fund revenue in April, which was **\$2.2 billion, or 49.7 percent, less than anticipated**, Revenue Secretary Dan Hassell reported. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$27.5

billion, which is **\$2.2 billion, or 7.4 percent, below estimate.**

"As we anticipated, there is a significant revenue shortfall this month when we compare collections to our original estimate. That's mainly because we have extended several tax deadlines to provide relief to Pennsylvania taxpayers during the COVID-19 pandemic," Secretary Hassell said. "Extending these due dates, including the traditional April 15th deadline for filing Pennsylvania personal income tax returns and making income tax payments, means that we expect to receive much of this revenue later in the year. That is an important fact to keep in mind when analyzing the fiscal impact of the pandemic on our revenue collections."

The department estimates that approximately \$1.7 billion of the \$2.2 billion shortfall in April can be attributed to moving due dates for various taxes. It is expected the majority of the \$1.7 billion will be made up when those tax payments occur in the next fiscal year. An additional \$395.3 million of the April shortfall is due to reduced economic activity during the pandemic.

Below are key points to consider when evaluating the \$1.7 billion shortfall in April that can be attributed to moving due dates for various taxes.

- Quarterly and annual personal income tax payments missed estimate in April by \$1.4 billion. This occurred mainly because the department **extended the due date** for quarterly and annual personal income tax payments to July 15, 2020 <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Revenue-Details.aspx?newsid=307>. The due date was originally April 15, 2020. **The department expects the majority of this shortfall to be made up in July.**
- **Corporation tax revenues** missed estimate in April by \$149.5 million. The department believes this occurred mainly because it extended the due date to August 14, 2020 for corporations that had annual corporate net income tax payments due in April, June or July <https://www.revenue.pa.gov/Pages/COVID19.aspx#CNIReturns-Payments>. **A portion of this**

shortfall will be made up in August, the month the new due date falls.

- **Sales and use tax collections** missed estimate in April by \$361.4 million. The department estimates that approximately \$146 million of this shortfall in sales and use tax is due to the waiver the department granted to certain businesses to temporarily suspend accelerated sales tax prepayments. The department announced it is **waving the prepayment requirement** in April, May and June <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Revenue-Details.aspx?newsid=311> to provide flexibility and support to businesses during the pandemic.

Below is an overview of the main components of the **\$395.3 million shortfall attributable to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Pennsylvanian's economy.**

- As noted earlier, **sales and use tax collections** missed estimate in April by \$361.4 million. The department estimates approximately **\$215.4 million of this shortfall in sales and use tax is due to the economic impacts of business closures and decreased consumer spending.**
- **Personal income tax** withholding missed estimate by \$104.5 million. **This deficit is likely caused by the effect of the pandemic on Pennsylvania's economy.** As businesses have closed and laid off workers, withholding of income tax has also fallen.
- As noted above, quarterly personal income tax payments missed estimate this month because the due date was extended to July 15, 2020. **These payments are also smaller than originally estimated due to the impact of the pandemic on personal income. This effect is estimated to be \$56 million this month.**

All remaining tax types missed estimate by \$102.6 million for reasons that are not yet clear.

Here is a full overview of April revenues by tax type:

Sales tax receipts totaled \$636.7 million for April, \$361.4 million below estimate. Year-to-date

sales tax collections total \$9.1 billion, which is **\$293.2 million, or 3.1 percent, less than anticipated.**

Personal income tax (PIT) revenue in April was \$1.1 billion, \$1.5 billion below estimate. This brings year-to-date PIT collections to \$10.9 billion, which is **\$1.5 billion, or 12.4 percent, below estimate.**

April corporation tax revenue of \$176.3 million was \$149.5 million below estimate. Year-to-date corporation tax collections total \$4.3 billion, which is **\$396.3 million, or 8.4 percent, below estimate.**

Inheritance tax revenue for the month was \$65.4 million, \$36.1 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$932.8 million, which is **\$297 million, or 3.3 percent, above estimate.**

Realty transfer tax revenue was \$26.6 million for April, \$23 million below estimate, bringing the fiscal-year total to \$431.7 million, which is **\$13.4 million, or 3 percent, less than anticipated.**

Other General Fund tax revenue, including cigarette, malt beverage, liquor and gaming taxes, totaled (\$11.4) million for the month, \$43.2 million below estimate and bringing the year-to-date total to \$1.2 billion, which is **\$35.2 million, or 2.8 percent, below estimate.**

Non-tax revenue totaled \$175.9 million for the month, \$22 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$577.6 million, which is **\$42.6 million, or 8 percent, above estimate.**

In addition to the General Fund collections, the **Motor License Fund** received \$173.1 million for the month, \$99.6 million below estimate. Fiscal year-to-date collections for the fund - which include the commonly known gas and diesel taxes, as well as other license, fine and fee revenues - total \$2.2 billion, which is **\$120.9 million, or 5.2 percent, below estimate.**

Source: PA Department of Revenue Press Release, 5/1/2020

House Approves Gleim Bill to Monitor Fiscal Pitfalls

On April 28, 2020, Rep. Barb Gleim (R-Cumberland) announced that the House of Representatives voted to pass **House Bill 2392**, legislation she authored along with esteemed colleague Rep. Frank Ryan of Lebanon County.

The legislation would enable the Independent Financial Office (IFO) to provide critical risk factors to their annual Economic and Budget Outlook. Currently, the Outlook, which gives an in-depth look at demographic, economic, revenue and expenditure trends, is very useful; it only gives a Best Case Scenario.

"This dynamic scoring included in the report is a great tool, however, it does not tell us revenue implications if certain debt obligations are not met," Gleim said. "Risk factors would allow the legislative to take necessary precautions to ensure future prosperity."

"Under this pandemic crisis, which I agree could never have been predicted; our current guidance is Best Case Scenario, which leaves much to conjecture as a guide. Critical risk factors, added to this report, will allow lawmakers to guide policy and budget recommendations."

View Gleim's floor remarks at <https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/pagopvideo/285700524.mp4>

House Bill 2392

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=h&type=b&bn=2392> now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Source: Rep. Gleim's Press Release, 4/28/2020

House Passes O'Neal Legislation to Require State Debt Review

On April 28, 2020, the House approved legislation authored by Rep. Tim O'Neal (R-Washington) that would require review

of all Commonwealth debt obligations and identify refinancing options in a report to the General Assembly.

“The nation’s and state’s economy has taken a blow due to the coronavirus pandemic,” O’Neal said. “As we work to complete a state budget by June 30, we must explore all avenues to cut costs in order to balance the budget. One possible way is to refinance debt. My legislation will give us a better understanding of what debt the Commonwealth holds and where savings can be realized.”

House Bill 2428

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2418> would require the Pennsylvania Treasury to identify and review all outstanding Commonwealth debt obligations including those held by authorities, commissions, agencies, boards and other state-authorized entities. The review would be in conjunction with the secretary of the budget, auditor general and the chairperson of any state entity with the power to issue debt. A report on the findings would be given to the General Assembly by June 30. In addition, the report would identify options for refinancing of all outstanding debt obligations in order to reduce costs to the Commonwealth.

The bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

The 48th Legislative District in Washington County includes the city of Washington; Chartiers, North Franklin, North Strabane and South Strabane townships; and Canonsburg, East Washington and Houston boroughs.

Source: Rep. Tim O’Neal Press Release, 4/28/2020

House Approves Bill to Create Bipartisan COVID-19 Review Task Force, Grove Says

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing response has put an enormous strain on Pennsylvanians and state government. To

help ensure Pennsylvania and its residents come out stronger than they were before the pandemic, the House approved House Bill 2419 by Rep. Seth Grove (R-Dover) to form a bipartisan COVID-19 cost and recovery task force.

"The shutdown of nearly every business in the Commonwealth brought our economy to a halt and left nearly 2 million people instantly unemployed," Grove said. "As we rebuild, I believe we can make Pennsylvania greater than ever before so we can all prosper."

The cost and recovery task force's mission would be to develop a recovery plan to include a documented, structured approach on how the Commonwealth and its subdivisions can expeditiously resume mission-critical functions, including the restoration of housing, transportation, education and other public services and economic activity to levels equal to or better than before the pandemic. This would be done through a series of short-term, intermediate and long-term strategies and actions.

The task force would be comprised of members of all three branches of government to conduct a transparent review of Pennsylvania's response to COVID-19. The task force would also be able to establish advisory committees to review issues relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

"Bringing voices and opinions from all branches of government, all walks of life and all parts of the Commonwealth is paramount," Grove said. "The path forward must be inclusive, sound and unified. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to produce a plan to make Pennsylvania once again an economic powerhouse. We must do it the right way."

The bill was amended so the task force would now be made up of nine people: the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate, the speaker of the House, the Senate president pro tempore, and two state judges, or appointees by any of those mentioned.

House Bill 2419

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo>

[.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2419](#) is now in the Senate for consideration.

Source: Rep. Seth Grove Press Release, 4/28/2020

Non-flushable Items Cause Problems in Sewer Systems "Flushable" Wipes Are NOT Flushable

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is encouraging all Pennsylvanians to only flush toilet paper and human waste, not disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items that should be disposed of in the trash. Sewage treatment facilities have been dealing with an increase in non-flushable materials clogging filters and equipment since the beginning of the stay-at-home orders in March.

"Flushing things that aren't meant to be flushed can damage your own sewer pipes as well as the sewer treatment facilities that we all depend on," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Even so-called 'flushable' wipes shouldn't be put in the toilet."

Tissues, paper towels, and single-use wipes, including cleansing and diaper wipes, cannot be safely flushed, even if they are labeled as "flushable" or "biodegradable." Other non-flushable items include things like diapers, feminine hygiene products, disposable toilet brushes, disposable gloves, cotton swabs, dental floss, and kitty litter.

Flushing or dumping the wrong things down the drain can cause blockages in your own home or business as well as problems in the local sewer system. These products do not break down like toilet paper and can clog systems very quickly. Many sewer blockages occur between your house or business and the sewer main, where the property owner is responsible for correcting and paying for the repair.

Blockages can also lead to sewage overflows that can have adverse effects on the environment,

especially if the overflow enters local rivers, lakes, and streams.

Flushing only toilet paper and human waste helps ensure that the toilets, plumbing, sewer systems, and septic systems will continue working properly to safely manage wastewater in Pennsylvania.

DEP also encourages residents and businesses to refrain from disposing of food scraps, grease, fat, or oil down the drain. These should also be disposed of in the trash to help keep wastewater pipes clear.

Grease, fat, and oil can solidify and adhere to the insides of the pipes that carry wastewater from homes and businesses to the wastewater treatment plant. Over time, these buildups can restrict the flow of wastewater.

Garbage disposals do not prevent grease from washing down the drain. Detergents that claim to dissolve grease may pass it down the line and cause problems in other parts of the wastewater system.

Food scraps, grease, fat, and oil should be removed from cookware, plates, utensils, and cooking surfaces, placed in a sealed container, and disposed of in the trash. Baskets/strainers can also be installed in sink drains to catch food scraps. Preventable toilet and sewer backups can pose a threat to human health and present an extra challenge to wastewater utilities and staff. Flushing anything other than toilet paper can damage internal plumbing, local sewer systems, and septic systems. Fixing these backups is costly and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly.

Having fully operational wastewater services is critical to containing COVID-19 and protecting Pennsylvanians from other public health risks. DEP thanks wastewater staff and utilities for their dedication, courage, and continuing efforts at a time when resources may be stretched thin. Pennsylvania's wastewater employees are local heroes on the frontline of protecting human health and the environment every single day.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the **PA Department of Health page** <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>. For more information on DEP-related COVID-19 matters, please visit the **PA DEP Alerts page** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx>.

Source: DEP Press Release, 4/29/2020

EPA Provides Grant Funding to Support Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income and minority communities through our daily efforts to ensure all Americans have clean air, safe water, and access to information to make decisions to protect personal and public health. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, EPA is making \$1 million in grant funding available to states to help local environmental justice communities address COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities.

Through the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program, EPA will provide funds to states, local governments, tribes and U.S. territories to work collaboratively with environmental justice communities to understand, promote and integrate approaches to provide meaningful and measurable improvements to public health and the environment.

“Environmental justice grants aim to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities across the country impacted by COVID-19, regardless of their zip code,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “These grants are part of EPA’s effort to actively fight the COVID-19 pandemic that is having a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities.”

The grant funding will be used to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities impacted by COVID-19. Projects could include sharing information related to EPA-approved disinfectants to combat COVID-19; addressing increased exposure of residents to in-home pollutants and healthy housing issues; and training community health workers.

EPA anticipates awarding five grants of approximately \$200,000 each for up to a two-year funding period. The agency encourages applicants to develop innovative plans and processes to conduct effective outreach to underserved communities, especially in places where Internet access may not be readily available to all residents.

Interested applicants must submit proposal packages on or before June 30, 2020 to be considered for the available funding.

To apply for funding: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program#tab-2>

For more information on **EPA’s Environmental Justice program:** <http://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program>

Source: EPA Press Release, 4/30/2020

PUC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Rulemaking to Address Potential Barriers to Enhancing Water and Wastewater Services

On April 30, 2020, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) voted 4-0 to issue an **Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** <http://www.puc.pa.gov/pcdocs/1661875.docx> (ANOPR) - exploring a series of interrelated issues impacting water and wastewater utilities across the state and seeking public comment on those matters.

As highlighted by a **statement from Commissioner Ralph V. Yanora** <http://www.puc.pa.gov/pdocs/1661820.pdf>, water quality for small, troubled or non-viable water and wastewater systems is a key item in the proposed rulemaking. The proposed rulemaking seeks input about whether the extensive and potentially redundant documentation currently required when large, well-established water or wastewater utilities seek to acquire smaller, and sometimes troubled, systems is an impediment to some transactions - adding unnecessary expense, complication and time delays that work against the Commission's policy of supporting system consolidation and regionalization.

The proposed rulemaking also includes an exploration of what methods within the Commission's jurisdiction might be used to reduce or eliminate the presence of contaminants such as lead, PFOA/PFOS and Legionella from the drinking water supplies of acquired systems - and whether it would be reasonable for the Commission to condition approval of acquisition applications on the implementation of the DEP-approved cross-connection control programs and/or a Commission-approved cross-connection control plan that most affected utilities address through their Commission-approved tariffs.

As part of the ANOPR process, the Commission is encouraging regulated utilities, the public, and any other interested parties to file comments, which should include specific section references to the Commission regulations, along with the rationale for the proposed change to those regulations.

Comments referencing Docket No. L-2020-3017232 should be submitted within 60 days of publication of the ANOPR in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Comments may be filed electronically through the Commission's e-File System. **Filing instructions** may be found on the Commission's website at http://www.puc.pa.gov/filing_resources.aspx.

Written comments referencing Docket No. L-2020-3017232 may also be sent to the following address:

Secretary, Pennsylvania Public Utility
Commission Commonwealth Keystone
Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg PA 17120

Today's action is a follow-up to the unanimous approval of a Feb. 6, 2020 **motion offered by Commissioner Yanora** http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/press_releases.aspx?ShowPR=4313, which began the rulemaking process.

The Commission will carefully review and consider public and stakeholder comments and will then determine how best to move forward.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

Visit the **PUC's website** at <http://www.puc.pa.gov/> for recent news releases and video of select proceedings. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. Search for the "Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission" or "PA PUC" on your favorite social media channel for updates on utility issues and other helpful consumer information.

Docket No.: L-2020-3017232
http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/consolidated_case_view.aspx?Docket=L-2020-3017232

Source: PUC Press Release, 4/30/2020

PennDOT Extends Expiration Dates on Driver

Licenses, ID Cards, and Learner's Permits

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced today that expiration dates for driver licenses, identification cards, and learner's permits, will be extended for Pennsylvania residents in response to statewide COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Effective April 30, 2020, expiration dates for driver licenses, photo ID cards and learner's permits scheduled to expire from March 16, 2020 through May 31, 2020, are **now extended through June 30, 2020**.

These extensions are in addition to those announced <https://www.penndot.gov/pages/all-news-details.aspx?newsid=721> on March 27.

Additionally, all Driver License Centers and Photo License Centers and the Harrisburg Riverfront Office Center in Pennsylvania are **closed until further notice** effective close of business on Monday, March 16.

As a reminder, customers may complete various transactions and access multiple resources via the **Driver and Vehicle Services website**, <http://www.dmvpa.gov/>. Driver and vehicle online services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and include driver's license, photo ID and vehicle registration renewals; driver-history services; changes of address; driver license and vehicle registration restoration letters; ability to pay driver license or vehicle insurance restoration fee; driver license and photo ID duplicates; and driver exam scheduling. There are no additional fees for using online services.

More COVID-19 information is available at <http://www.health.pa.gov/>. For more information, visit <http://www.dmv.pa.gov/> or <https://www.penndot.gov/>.

Source: PennDOT Press Release, 5/1/2020

PennVEST Schedules 4 Virtual Meetings on Clean Water Funding Opportunities for a Sustainable Future; Cancels In-Person Info Sessions

On April 30, the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority announced it has scheduled **four virtual public meetings** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EmjmRZrMMNO-9kEVbfFgnLeqHDLE2sUu/view> on how PennVEST funding can help improve water quality in your community.

The meetings are for municipal officials, conservation districts, private landowners, authority board members and staff, regulators, engineers, and others interested in water quality improvement funding.

Learn about funding levels, sources of funding, timelines and meeting cut off dates, regulation updates, and how to develop a PennVEST project.

PennVEST staff will also go over new initiatives: small projects funding, and programmatic financing, the local sub-revolving loan program, and the Center for Water Quality Excellence in Lancaster and York counties.

Special funding will be available for lead line replacement, and for testing lead in drinking water in schools and child care programs.

The meetings will be held:

- May 13: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- May 19: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- May 26: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- June 2: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Click here to **preregister for these virtual meetings** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pennvest-online-innovative-clean-water-funding-for-a-sustainable-future-tickets-103737521720>. Each

session will be limited to 100 participants to facilitate managing questions and answers.

Please contact your regional Project Specialist with questions or concerns regarding the events:

- **Northwest Region:** Ken Anderson 717-783-6799 or kenanderso@pa.gov: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren
- **Southwest Region:** Dan Mikesic 717-574-8452 or dmikesic@pa.gov: Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland
- **Northcentral Region:** Leslie Cote 717-783-4489 or lecote@pa.gov: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union
- **Southcentral Region:** Tesra Schlupp 717-574-8453 or tschlupp@pa.gov: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York
- **Northeast/Southeast Regions:** Rebecca Kennedy 717-574-8454 or rebkennedy@pa.gov: Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming
- **Robert Boos:** Deputy Executive Director for Project Management: 717-783- 4493 or rboos@pa.gov.

Click here to **download more information** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EmjmRZrMMNO-9kEVbfFgnLeqHDLE2sUu/view> about these meetings.

Visit the **PA Infrastructure Investment Authority** <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/pennsylvania-infrastructure-investment-authority-pennvest/> for

more information on clean water funding opportunities.

Source: PA Environmental Digest Blog, 4/30/2020

DRBC Public Hearing and Business Meeting

The Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 13, 2020**, at 1:30 p.m. by telephone at (866) 342-8588, with passcode 3722.

A business meeting will be held the following month on **Wednesday, June 10, 2020**. Written comments on matters scheduled for hearing on May 13, 2020, will be accepted through 5 p.m. on May 18, 2020.

For questions concerning hearing items contact David Kovach, project review section manager, at (609) 883-9500, Ext. 264. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 5/2/2020
<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-18/603.html>

DEP: Availability of Technical Guidance

The Department of Environmental Protection made **technical guidance documents available here** <http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/>. Questions regarding this should be directed to Martina McGarvey at mmcgarvey@pa.gov or (717) 3468618. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Final Technical Guidance: New Guidance

DEP ID: 150-4200-001. **Title:** Microbiology Incubation Units. **Description:** This guidance provides laboratory management with the tools to develop procedures for maintenance and verification of incubation units used for microbiological testing that meet the requirements

for laboratory accreditation. This TGD was available for public comment August 24, 2019, through September 23, 2019. The Department received comments from four individuals and based on the suggestions provided, adjusted the guidance accordingly.

Contact: Questions regarding this TGD should be directed to Martina McGarvey at mmcgarvey@pa.gov or (717) 346-8618.

Effective Date: May 2, 2020

DEP ID: 150-4200-002. Title: **Guidelines for Sample Collection, Receipt, and Handling.** This guidance provides laboratory management with the tools to develop sample collection, receiving, handling and reporting procedures that meet the requirements for laboratory accreditation. This TGD was available for public comment August 24, 2019, through September 23, 2019. The Department received comments from one individual and based on the suggestions provided, adjusted the guidance accordingly.

Contact: Questions regarding this TGD should be directed to Martina McGarvey at mmcgarvey@pa.gov or (717) 346-8618.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 5/2/2020
<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-18/609.html>

Environmental Justice Advisory Board Virtual Meeting

The Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Justice Advisory Board will hold a virtual meeting beginning at 9 a.m. on **Thursday, May 21, 2020**. Individuals interested in providing public comments during the meeting must sign up prior to the start of the meeting by contacting Allison Acevedo at alacevedo@pa.gov or (484) 250-5818.

Information on how to join the meeting, as well as agenda and meeting materials, will be available here <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 5/2/2020
<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-18/610.html>

SRBC Public Hearing

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing telephonically on **May 14, 2020**, at 2:30 p.m. The conference call number is (888) 387-8686. The conference room code number is 9179686050.

For further information contact Jason Oyler, general counsel and secretary to the commission, (717) 238-0423, fax (717) 238-2436. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 5/2/2020
<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-18/625.html>

Bill to Control Overuse of Fertilizer on Turf Reported Out of Senate Committee

On April 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out **Senate Bill 915** (Yaw-R-Lycoming) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2019&sind=0&body=S&type=B&bn=915> which sets standards for the application of fertilizer to turf, provides for the certification of professional fertilizer applicators and for labeling and an education program (**sponsor summary** <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20190&coponId=29521>).

The goal of the legislation is to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient pollution going into Pennsylvania's rivers and streams. The legislation was included as a recommendation in **Pennsylvania's latest Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan**

[https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-\(Watershed-Implementation-Plans\).aspx](https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-(Watershed-Implementation-Plans).aspx).

Legislation like this passed the Senate in 2018 as **Senate Bill 792** (Alloway-R-Franklin) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2017&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0792>. The House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee held a **hearing on the bill** <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=43702&SubjectID=202> last June, but did not consider it.

Similar legislation has already been enacted in Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey, and the industry has expressed a strong desire for consistency across the region and state.

The bill now goes to the full Senate for action.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 5/4/2020

House Environmental Committee Meets May 5 on Bill to Reallocating Keystone Fund Proceeds

On May 5, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet on legislation to give the General Assembly authority to reallocate monies from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund between agencies.

The bills on the agenda include:

- **House Bill 2004** (Ortitay-R-Allegheny) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2004> gives the General Assembly authority to reallocate monies from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund between participating agencies, instead of having an allocation fixed in law (**sponsor summary** <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM>

</showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20190&cosponId=30488>); and

- **House Bill 99** (Zimmerman-R-Lancaster) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=99> requiring DEP to establish an online permit tracking system (sponsor summary <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20190&cosponId=27209>). No funding is provided by this legislation.

The meeting will be held in Room G-50 Irvis Building starting at 10:00 a.m. Click here to watch the meeting online

<http://www.pahousegop.com/livestreams>.

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-783-1707 or sending email to: dmetcalf@pahousegop.com. Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 5/4/2020

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This newsletter provides general information, not legal advice as to any specific matter. It should not be used as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.