Federal Real ID Enforcement Begins October 1

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is reminding all Pennsylvania residents who want a REAL-ID-compliant driver’s license or photo ID card to gather their needed documents as soon as possible to ensure they leave plenty of time to get their REAL ID before the federal enforcement date of October 1, 2021.

REAL ID is a federal law that affects how states issue driver’s licenses and ID cards if they are going to be acceptable for federal purposes, such as boarding a domestic flight or entering a federal building that requires federally acceptable ID upon entry. A federally acceptable form of identification (whether it’s a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver’s license or ID card, a valid U.S. Passport/Passport Card, a military ID, etc.) must be used for these purposes on and after October 1, 2021.

There is no requirement that any resident obtain a REAL ID; PennDOT continues to offer standard-issue driver’s licenses and photo IDs.

PennDOT paused REAL ID issuance in March 2020 due to COVID-19 out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of public health and resumed issuing REAL IDs in September 2020. Additionally, the federal Department of Homeland Security postponed the enforcement date for REAL ID from October 1, 2020, to October 1, 2021, in response to COVID-19 and the national emergency declaration.

Customers can obtain a REAL ID by presenting documents for verification and processing at any driver license center. Federal regulations require that to be issued a REAL ID-compliant product, PennDOT must verify the below documents:

- Proof of Identity: Examples include original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with the State Office of Vital Records/Statistics with a raised seal/embossed or valid, unexpired, U.S. Passport;
- Proof of Social Security Number: Social security card, in current legal name;
- Two Proofs of Current, Physical PA Address: Examples include a current, unexpired PA driver’s license or identification card, vehicle registration or a utility bill with the same name and address; and
- Proof of all Legal Name Changes (if current legal name is different than what is reflected on proof of identity document): Examples include a certified marriage certificate(s) issued by the County Court for each marriage, court order(s) approving a change in legal name or amended birth certificate issued by the State Office of Vital Records/Statistics. If current name is the same as what is reflected on proof of identity document (usually birth certificate or passport), a customer does not need to show proof of legal name changes.

Customers have three options for obtaining a REAL ID product: Customers may order their REAL ID online if they have been pre-verified and their REAL ID product will be mailed to them within 15 business days; they can visit any PennDOT driver license center that is open for driver license services, have their documents verified and imaged, and their REAL ID product will be mailed to them within 15 business days; or they can visit one of 13 REAL ID Centers and receive their REAL ID product over the counter at the time of service.

For a full list of driver license centers and their services, please visit the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services website, www.dmv.pa.gov.

When a customer gets their first REAL ID product, they will pay a one-time fee of $30, plus the applicable renewal fee (current renewal fee is $31.50 for a four-year-commercial driver’s license, and $31.50 for a photo ID). The expiration date of their initial REAL ID product will include any time remaining on their existing non-REAL ID product, plus an additional four years, unless the customer is over 65 and has a two-year license. This expiration date structure means that the customer won’t “lose” time that he/she already paid for. After the initial REAL ID product expires, the customer will pay no additional fee, beyond regular renewal fees, to renew a REAL ID product.

REAL ID-compliant products are marked with a gold star in the upper right corner, standard-issue (non-compliant) products include the phrase “NOT FOR REAL ID PURPOSES,” per federal regulations. Sample images can be viewed on PennDOT’s website.

Vaccine Distributions

Governor Tom Wolf and the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force announced yesterday that

Federal Real ID Enforcement has been EXTENDED to October 1, 2021
To date, Pennsylvania providers have administered more than 6 million vaccines and the state is among the top 10 states in first-dose vaccinations. More than 2.4 million Pennsylvanians are fully vaccinated.

While eligibility is expanding, it is important to remember that eligibility does not guarantee an immediate vaccination appointment.

I want to remind everyone that my website features a vaccination page which can be viewed at http://www.senatorfontana.com/vaccine. The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has created a registration page for individuals in their 34-zip code service area. Anyone in their service area can sign up to be contacted to schedule when supply allows, please click here.

In addition to the information provided above, the following are providers in Allegheny County that are receiving vaccines from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and those pharmacies that are receiving first doses through the Department of Health and those pharmacies that are receiving first doses directly from the federal government as part of the federal retail pharmacy program. Anyone without internet access can also call the provider at 1-877-722-7536 to help find a vaccine provider.

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has opened a Vaccine Registration site to the public. Individuals seeking vaccine appointments may register online at http://vax4.alleghenycounty.us for available events.

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has created a website, Allegheny County, that allows to complete a registration form. Once the registration form is completed, you will receive additional communications from UPMC to schedule an appointment. Those without access to technology or the internet can call 844-UPMCVAC (844-876-2822).

The Allegheny Health Network is allowing anyone to sign up for “MyChart” and you will be alerted when they have COVID-19 vaccine appointments available. You will also be able to schedule your immediate vaccination appointment by calling 1-833-458-7777. It also differentiates between locations that are receiving first doses directly from the federal government as part of the federal retail pharmacy program. Anyone without internet access can also call the UPMC vaccine provider.

The Department has opened a Vaccine Registration site to the public. Individuals seeking vaccine appointments may register online at https://vaccine.upmc.com/ for available events.

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Shredding, Medication Take-Back Event – Saturday!

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This Saturday, along with Rep. Dan Dayes and Crafton Borough, we will be holding a shredding and medication take-back event. If you bring to the parking lot at Crafton Park, located at 107 W. Steuben Street. Then on Saturday, May 15, in conjunction with Rep. Dayes and Green Tree Borough, a shredding and medication take-back event will be held in the parking lot at Green Tree Park, located at 905 Green Tree Road, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (or until trucks are full).

Documents of all events will be shredded on-site by a reputable and bonded company. All papers must be loose, no binder clips or paper clips, and documents cannot be in binders. At both events, the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office will be present to collect any unused/unwanted prescription medications that will be disposed of safely as part of their Drug Take Back Program.

At both events, staff will be wearing masks and gloves. All attendees must stay in your vehicles and wear a mask. Recycling must be in paper bags or cardboard boxes and placed in your trunk or in the back of your vehicle.

With consumer fraud and identity theft continuing to be an issue, we are hosting these events not only to raise awareness and promote prevention, but also to provide individuals with the opportunity to have unneeded, confidential documents destroyed free of charge. You may bring documents that contain personal information such as social security numbers, credit card numbers and bank account numbers.

Did you Know

Did you know there are more than 2,000 veterans in Pennsylvania currently enrolled in the program?

Pennie Enrollment Extended – Take Advantage of Additional Financial Assistance!

For plan year 2021, Pennsylvania has transitioned from HealthCare.gov to its own state-based health insurance marketplace called Pennie. Pennie is Pennsylvania's official destination for shopping and purchasing quality health insurance plans and the only place to access financial assistance, if eligible.

By the end of Pennie’s inaugural Open Enrollment nearly 338,000 Pennsylvanians enrolled in coverage, a more than 5,000 increase over last year. Over 73,000 new customers enrolled in coverage through Pennie, a 9.7 percent year-over-year increase. Through the implementation of a state-based marketplace and the premium savings realized through the Pennsylvania Reinsurance Program, the Commonwealth has expanded access to quality health coverage, seamlessly transitioned from HealthCare.gov and connected more customers to the financial assistance made available under the American Rescue Plan. The COVID-19 enrollment period to sign up for health coverage during this pandemic, and to ensure they can take advantage of the additional financial assistance made available under the American Rescue Plan.

Served in the military honorably

Eligibility criteria includes:

- Resident of Pennsylvania upon entering the military
- Suffered a service-connected injury or incurred a disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities
- At least 40 percent disability rating compensation rating or higher in each limb as determined and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Veteran of a war, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam Era
- Served in the military honorably
- Resident of Pennsylvania upon entering the military
- Personal Information Tax Filing Deadline Extended

I want to remind everyone the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has extended the deadline for taxpayers to file their 2020 Pennsylvania personal income tax return and make final 2020 tax payments to May 17, 2021. This means taxpayers will have an additional month to file from the original deadline of April 15. The Internal Revenue Service also announced it would extend the federal income tax filing deadline to May 17, 2021. More information about DMVA’s Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension Program can be found by clicking here.
**LIHEAP Extended**

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) has extended this season’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and will be accepting applications through Friday, April 30. The program was originally slated to close on Friday, April 9.

The program helps low-income families pay their heating bills. You can apply and check the status of your application online at the state’s COMPASS website (https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass/). Completed paper applications should be returned to the Allegheny County Assistance Office, located at 5875 Penn Avenue, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

Funding for LIHEAP is provided by the federal government and eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. The income limits for this season are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Income Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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After your application is received you will receive a written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Payments are generally sent directly to a utility company or fuel provider and will be credited to your heating account. Crisis grants may also be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. For more information, please contact the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095 or 412-562-0330. Individuals with hearing impairments can call 711.

**Green Grocer**

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank’s Green Grocer is returning this month! Green Grocer is a mobile farmers market that is designed to travel into food desert communities to provide the fresh food options that are currently missing from the landscape. By selling fresh, high-quality, and affordable produce, Green Grocer will help to alleviate food insecurity by creating access. Everyone is welcome to shop at the market and multiple forms of payment can be accepted, including SNAP/EBT and PFA/FMAP and SNAP checks.

The Green Grocer will appear twice monthly in 20 neighborhoods in Allegheny County including: Spring Hill; Sharpsburg; Knoxville; Woods Run; Hill District; McKees Rocks; Shaler; and Northview Heights.

**Community Workshops on Clack Site**

Lawnecroft Union and Lawnecroft Community are hosting three community workshops. Joining us off the public planning process for the 6.5-acre Clack Facility on the campus of the Allegheny County Health Department in Lawrenceville. These community engagement workshops are for everyone and are the same content. Anyone interested in participating can join by Zoom or phone and registration is required.

The community workshops begin today.
and have the following schedule:
- Tuesday, April 13, noon – 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 17, 10 – 11 a.m.

Registration for any of these community workshops can be done by visiting [here](https://lunited.org) or contacting Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220 or info@lunited.org.

Fontana Fact

April is National Donate Life Month. There are currently more than 107,000 individuals in the United States on the national transplant waiting list and every nine minutes another person is added to the list. To learn more about organ donation, including how to sign up, please visit [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov).

Offices of State Senator Wayne D. Fontana

**Brookline District**
1039 Brookline Boulevard
Suite 2
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Phone: 412-344-2551
Weekdays – 9 am – 5 pm

**Harrisburg**
543 Main Capital (Box 20344)
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-5300
Fax: 717-772-5484
Weekdays – 9:30 am – 5 pm

**Kennedy Township**
Kennedy Plaza
524 Pine Hollow Road
Kennedy Twp, PA 15136
Phone: 412-331-1208
Weekdays – 10 am – 4 pm

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