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NEWS & VIEWS



Pennsylvania State Senator Wayne D. Fontana
Serving the 42nd Senatorial District

Federal Real ID Enforcement Begins October 1

The federal REAL ID deadline has been EXTENDED to October 1, 2021



[Penndot.gov/REALID](https://penndot.gov/REALID)

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 \$30.50 for a four-year non-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 they've 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.

More information about REAL ID in Pennsylvania, including frequently asked questions and information on documents required for REAL ID, can be found at www.penndot.gov/REALID.

Vaccine Distributions



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

effective today all Pennsylvania adults will be eligible to schedule an appointment for the COVID -19 vaccine.

To date, Pennsylvania providers have administered more than 6 million vaccines and the state is ranked among the top 20 states for 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 [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) also has a vaccination page on their website which can be accessed by [clicking here](#). The Department has updated the interactive map by converting it to the Google Maps platform. This allows users to enter their address and find vaccine providers closest to them. It also differentiates between locations 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 Department at 1-877-724-3258 for help finding 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.

UPMC has created a website, <https://vaccine.upmc.com/>, 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).

[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 vaccine appointment online by [clicking here](#) or by calling 412-362-8677.

[St. Clair Hospital](#) 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 an appointment once supply allows. Anyone without internet access can call 412-942-2960 to request to register. Callers should leave a message including your full name, address, date of birth, and phone number. To learn more about St. Clair Hospital’s vaccination efforts please [click here](#) and to 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.

Alma Illery Medical Center	7227 Hamilton Road	Homewood	412-244-4700
AHN Forbes Hospital	2570 Haymaker Road	Monroeville	412-516-9061
AHN Allegheny General Hospital	320 East North Avenue	Northside	412-359-3131
AHN Allegheny Valley Hospital	1301 Carlisle Street	Natrona Heights	724-224-5100
AHN Jefferson Regional Hospital	565 Coal Valley Road	Jefferson Hills	412-948-7705
AHN West Penn Hospital	4800 Friendship Avenue	Bloomfield	412-530-1028
Braddock Family Health Center	404 Braddock Avenue	Braddock	412-351-6300
Central Outreach Wellness Center	127 Anderson Street	Northside	412-322-4151
Cornerstone Care	559 Miller Avenue	Clairton	412-226-5454
East Liberty Family Health Care Center	6023 Harvard Street	Friendship	833-789-5320
Family Matters Direct Primary Care	4824 William Flynn Highway, Suite 102	Allison Park	412-685-3373
Integrated Health 21	2403 Sidney Street, Suite 220	South Side	800-451-6889
Lebanon Shops Pharmacy	300 Mt. Lebanon Boulevard	Castle Shannon	412-344-6700
Metro Community Health Center	1789 South Braddock Avenue	Swissvale	412-247-2310
North Side Christian Health Center	816 Middle Street	Northside	412-321-4001
Palmer Pharmacy	738 Little Deer Creek Valley Road	Russellton	724-265-1632
Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center	249 South 9th Street	South Side	412-697-3260
Pleasant Hills Apothecary	25 Gill Hall Road	Clairton	412-653-7566
Primary Care Pharmacy	27 Heckel Road	Kennedy	412-771-2149
Spartan Pharmacy	3520 Saw Mill Run	Brentwood	412-884-4400
Spartan Pharmacy	3400 South Park Road	Bethel Park	412-831-1333
Squirrel Hill Health Center	4516 Browns Hill Road	Glen Hazel	Visit online
St. Clair Hospital	1000 Bower Hill Road	Mt. Lebanon	412-942-2960
UPMC McKeesport	1500 Fifth Avenue	McKeesport	412-664-2000
UPMC Mercy	1400 Locust Street	Uptown	412-232-8111
UPMC Presbyterian	200 Lothrop Street	Oakland	412-647-2345
UPMC Shadyside	5320 Centre Avenue	Shadyside	412-623-2121
UPMC St. Margaret	815 Freeport Road	Aspinwall	412-784-4000
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	4401 Penn Avenue	Lawrenceville	412-692-5325
West End Health Center	415 Neptune Street	Elliott	412-921-7200
Wilkinsburg Family Health Center	807 Wallace Avenue	Wilkinsburg	412-247-5216
Wilson's Pharmacy	4101 Penn Avenue	Lawrenceville	412-621-6471

Shredding, Medication Take-Back Event – Saturday!



I want to alert everyone about two upcoming shredding events and medication take-back events.

This Saturday, along with Rep. Dan Deasy and Crafton Borough, we will be holding a shredding and medication take-back event from 8 – 11 a.m. (or until trucks are full) in the parking lot at Crafton Park, located at 167 W. Steuben Street.

Then on Saturday, May 15, in conjunction with Rep. Deasy 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 – 11 a.m. (or until trucks are full).

Documents at both 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 [Project D.U.M.P.](#)

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 to 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.

Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension Program

The [Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs \(DMVA\)](#) wants to ensure veterans are aware of the agency's Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension Program. Eligible Pennsylvania veterans may qualify to receive a pension of \$150 per month.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- Served in the military honorably
- 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

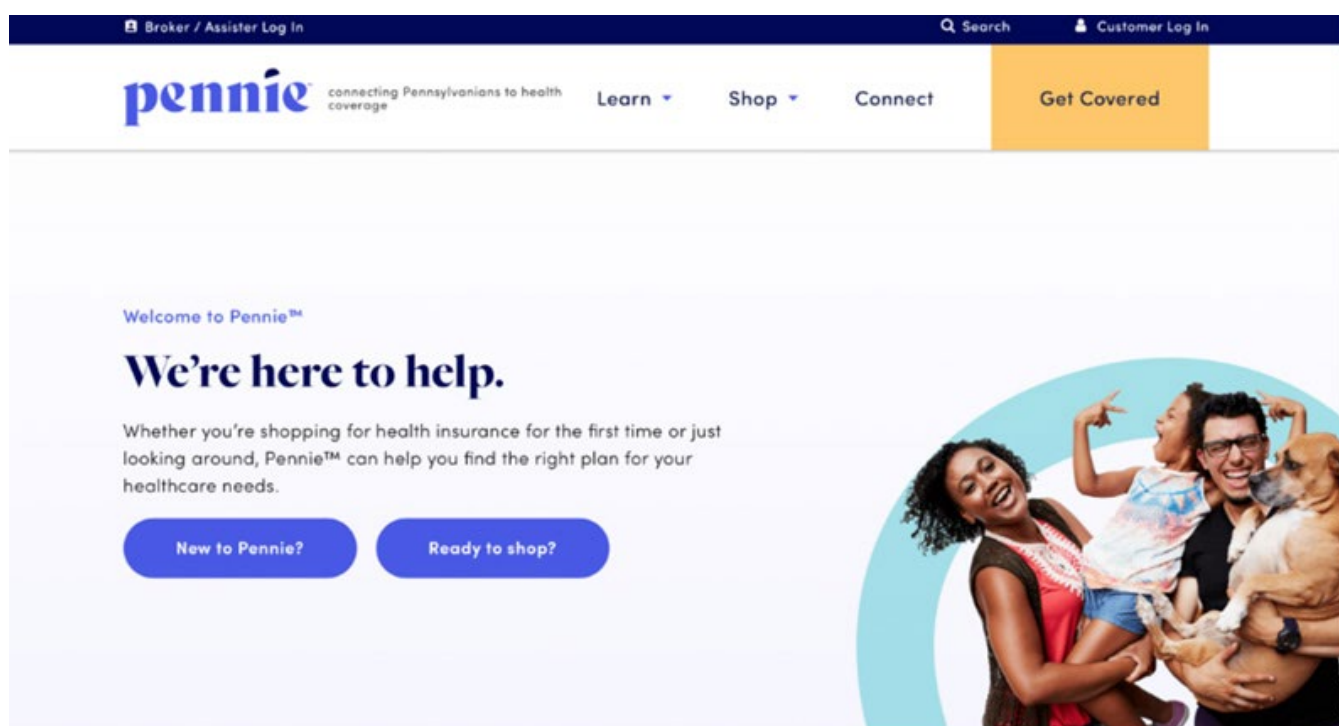
Pennsylvania veterans are encouraged to contact their County Veterans Affairs Director in the county they reside to apply. Veterans in Allegheny County can contact Dwight Boddorf at 412-621-4357 or Dwight.boddorf@alleghenycounty.us.

More information about DMVA's Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension Program can be found by [clicking here](#).

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 75,000 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 for which they were eligible.

Due to the continued public health risks of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth and in-line with the federal extension announced in March, the current Enrollment Period to sign up for health coverage through Pennie has been extended through August 15, 2021.

Pennie is committed to providing ample time for Pennsylvanians to access quality health coverage during this pandemic, and to ensure they can take advantage of the additional financial assistance made available under the American Rescue Plan. The COVID-19 Enrollment Period will remain open for both new customers to enroll in coverage and for current customers to change their plan if they so choose.

To learn more about Pennie, health insurance options, and financial assistance availability, including the additional assistance now available, please visit <https://pennie.com/>.

Personal Income 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 returns and make final 2020 income 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.

Under Pennsylvania law, the deadline for filing state income tax returns is tied to the deadline set at the federal level.

To be clear, the extension means the Department of Revenue will waive penalties and interest on final 2020 personal income tax returns and payments through the new deadline of May 17, 2021.

Those who make estimated income tax payments should continue to do so on the same filing schedule that they would normally follow. This includes taxpayers with estimated tax payments due on April 15, 2021. Taxes must be paid as taxpayers earn or receive income during the year, either through withholding or estimated tax payments.

Although the filing deadline for 2020 tax returns has been extended, the Department of Revenue is encouraging taxpayers who are able to file their returns electronically to do so as soon as possible. If you are expecting a refund from the commonwealth, filing electronically will help avoid a delay in the release of your refund.

Pennsylvania's new, state-only filing system is available at <https://mypath.pa.gov/>. myPATH is a free, user-friendly option that allows most taxpayers to seamlessly file the Pennsylvania Income Tax Return (PA-40) and make income tax payments, as well as offering other services.

The Department of Revenue has a Fraud Detection and Analysis Unit dedicated to assisting victims of identity theft and combating tax refund fraud. If you are a victim of identity theft or discover a fraudulent Pennsylvania personal income tax return was filed using your identity, please contact the Fraud Detection and Analysis Unit by emailing RA-RVPITFRAUD@pa.gov.

For more information on ways to protect yourself, please [click here](#). You can also find further information about protecting yourself online 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 on the state's COMPASS website (www.compass.state.pa.us). You can also download one yourself from the [DHS LIHEAP website](#). Completed paper applications should be returned to the Allegheny County Assistance Office, located at 5947 Penn Avenue, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206.

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:



Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$19,140
2	\$25,860
3	\$32,580
4	\$39,300
5	\$46,020
6	\$52,740
7	\$59,460
8	\$66,180
9	\$72,900
10	\$79,620

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, healthy foods at an affordable price Green Grocer will help to alleviate food inequity by creating access. Everyone is welcome to shop at the market and multiple forms of payment are accepted, including SNAP/EBT and FMNP & SFMNP 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; Sheraden; and Northview Heights.



To view the schedule in its entirety please [click here](#).

The Green Grocer schedule is subject to change. Please check www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/green-grocer for updates. For more information please call 412-745-6499 or email greengrocer@pittsburghfoodbank.org.

High School Seniors – Apply Today for Landmarks Scholarship Award!

The [Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation \(PHLF\)](#) is accepting applications for their Landmarks Scholarship through next Tuesday, April 20. The scholarship is available to high school seniors in Allegheny County who will be attending college or university in the fall of 2021. Launched in 1999, the Landmarks Scholarship provides \$6,000 payable over four years for book and tuition expenses.

Students with a 3.25 grade point average or above, and who are involved in their community, and care deeply about the Pittsburgh region are encouraged to apply. The application can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

More information about the Landmarks Scholarship is available at <https://phlf.org/> or by [clicking here](#).



PITTSBURGH HISTORY &
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

Community Workshops on Clack Site

[Lawrenceville United](#) and [Lawrenceville Corporation](#) are hosting three community workshops, kicking 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 will set priorities and community values for future use of the space. All of these meetings are by Zoom and are the same content. Anyone interested in participating can join by Zoom or phone and registration is required.

The community workshops begin today



Community Workshops on Clack Site

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. A public planning process for the 6.5-acre Clack Facility is kicking off to create a community-led vision for the site! Please join us for the first community engagement workshops to set priorities and community values. All of these meetings are by Zoom and are the same content. Join by Zoom or by phone. Registration required.

THREE CHANCES TO PARTICIPATE

- Tuesday 4/13, 12-1 p.m.
- Tuesday 4/13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 4/17, 10-11 a.m.

Register at bit.ly/Clack15201, or contact Lawrenceville United: 412-802-7220 | info@LUnited.org



KISHA PATTERSON, RA

and have the following schedule:

- Tuesday, April 13, noon – 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 13, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 17, 10 – 11 a.m.

Registration for any of these community workshops can be done by [clicking here](#) or contacting Lawrenceville United at 412-802-7220 or info@LUnited.org.content

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.



Offices of State Senator Wayne D. Fontana

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