Dear Residents of SD-44:

I hope all of you were able to enjoy the beautiful weather this past weekend. In the near future, I hope to be able to see many of you in-person at community events and town halls. With the expected ramp of COVID vaccine supply to our region, it is only a matter of time before we are able to get back to some semblance of normalcy. In the meantime, please continue to stay safe and do not hesitate to reach out to my office for any assistance.

In this e-blast, you will find information on the updated COVID vaccine rollout timeline, an opportunity to serve on the legislative redistricting committee, and a webinar on affordable healthcare through Pennsylvania’s Healthcare Marketplace, Pennie.

Follow the latest updates, be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Senator Katie Muth

COVID Vaccine Update

Last week, the Pennsylvania Department of Health announced that they no longer plan to open two mass clinics in Philadelphia’s collar counties and instead will divide a supply of Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses between the four counties — something county leaders had requested and that the Department of Health had originally rejected.

I am happy to see that the DOH has agreed to allocate doses directly to the county health departments, which is something that I have been pressing for along with my colleagues in SEPA. The retail pharmacies across the area will begin to see an increase of doses allocated directly through the federal retail pharmacy partnership and in addition, the collar counties will receive 42,000 doses to split between the county health departments, which is what was requested.

In addition, the Department of Health announced the above vaccine rollout timeline. It is important to note that these dates represent the date that individuals will be eligible to register for the vaccine, and the counties and other local providers will be working hard to get doses into arms as quickly as they can.

Vaccine Rollout Timeline

Registration by County

Bucks County

If you live in Bucks County, Vaccine distribution is handled by licensed healthcare providers and pharmacies. The County of Bucks cannot distribute nor determine who gets the vaccine, but officials are working closely with local health care providers as they continue to coordinate and communicate vaccine distribution efforts. Learn more about how to register with providers HERE.

The Medicine Shoppe of Boyertown

The Medicine Shoppe of Boyertown is operating vaccine distribution through clinics located around the Boyertown and Spring-Ford area. Vaccines will only be available through large-scale vaccination clinics. Check back HERE on April 5th for their next vaccine clinic availability. Please refrain from contacting pharmacy staff in regards to the vaccine, unless you have an urgent question that cannot wait. Contacting the store regarding COVID-19 vaccine availability interferes with the pharmacy’s ability to serve their patients safely and quickly.

Chester County

The Medicine Shoppe of West Chester is operating vaccine distribution through clinics located around the West Chester and East Townships. Vaccines will only be available through large-scale vaccination clinics. Check back HERE on April 5th for their next vaccine clinic availability. Please refrain from contacting pharmacy staff in regards to the vaccine, unless you have an urgent question that cannot wait. Contacting the store regarding COVID-19 vaccine availability interferes with the pharmacy’s ability to serve their patients safely and quickly.

Legislative Redistricting Committee

People should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Our state senate
and house districts continue to be among the most gerrymandered in the country and you can apply to lead the commission in an attempt to draw fair districts.

The four caucus floor leaders announced that they are seeking applications from individuals interested in serving as the chair of the 2021 Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC).

The LRC is a five-member panel responsible for redrawing the boundaries for state Senate and state House districts. Article II, Section 17, of the state constitution names the four caucus floor leaders as members of the Commission. They are to choose a fifth member, who serves as chair of the LRC.

Learn more for specific information required to apply here.

Volunteers Needed: Meals on Wheels

Last week, I joined Dennis and Connie (20 year volunteers), who volunteer their time with Meals on Wheels America in coordination with Family Services of Montgomery County. All of the residents that we delivered to were so grateful and we even met some furry friends along the way.

Meals on wheels offers two meals up to 7 days a week for adults over age 60 at significant risk of malnutrition.

Volunteers are needed: call 610-326-1610, or email rhood@fsmontco.org to see how you can help deliver meals to neighbors in need.

Info Session: How will the American Rescue Plan Make Pennie More Affordable?

On March 12th, the American Rescue Plan was signed into law. Among other provisions, the new legislation represents the biggest federal expansion of healthcare in a decade, lowering health care costs and expanding access to coverage.

The new legislation is designed to make healthcare purchased through the marketplace more affordable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join PHAN and Pennie for a virtual info session on April 6th at 11 am to learn about these changes and how they’ll be implemented in Pennsylvania. They will discuss how and when the American Rescue Plan will expand affordability for people who are insured - or considering being insured - through Pennie and answer any questions you might have.

*NEW* Tax Deadline and Free Tax Prep Service

Pennsylvania has delayed its tax filing deadline from April 15 until May 17, after the Internal Revenue Service said it is delaying the federal tax filing deadline until May 17.

My district office in Royersford Borough is offering free tax prep service for anyone who needs to file a tax return by using a 1040 form. This service will be offered on Thursdays from 9:30am through April 8 (all COVID precautions will be enforced).

You MUST make an appointment by calling my office at 610-752-2137 (ask for Nikki). To learn more about the service and what you will need to bring to your appointment click here.
How to Stay Informed
Pennsylvania Department of Health

- Follow the PA Health Department on Twitter.
- Follow them on Facebook.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Follow the CDC on Twitter.
- Follow the CDC on Facebook.

Stay Connected
Follow me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest news and updates.

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