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Dear Residents of SD-44:

Aiming to stimulate Pennsylvania's economy by providing direct aid to workers, families, small businesses and other vulnerable populations, the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus on Friday announced a **bold**, innovative \$4 billion pandemic relief plan .

The Pennsylvania Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act of 2021 (PA CARES 21) Plan would fund previously existing aid programs and establish new programs to help struggling Pennsylvanians and struggling areas of the commonwealth's economy.

## PA CARES 21

CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

\$4 BILLION DATA-DRIVEN PLAN TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO WORKERS, BUSINESSES & HOMEOWNERS IN PA.

PASenate.com/PACARES

Unemployment Comp. Protection .....	\$1.069 Billion
Business Assistance .....	\$800 Million
Local Gov't Assistance .....	\$595 Million
Education (Pre-k - Higher Ed) .....	\$411 Million
DHS Programs .....	\$318.4 Million
Transportation .....	\$180.4 Million
Hazard Pay .....	\$135 Million
Hospital Assistance .....	\$100 Million
Housing Assistance .....	\$100 Million
Utility Assistance .....	\$100 Million
Child Care .....	\$75 Million
Food Security .....	\$50 Million
Public Safety .....	\$25 Million
PPE/Vaccine .....	\$25 Million
Mental Health Programs .....	\$15 Million

We can no longer wait for the federal government to act. The current Administration has surrendered to the pandemic and abdicated its responsibility to protect American citizens. Their indifference has costs hundreds of thousands of American lives. This plan is intended to jumpstart the conversation now ahead of a new legislative session and would help Pennsylvanians and main street small businesses who are most in need.

More information on the proposal and the caucus' work in pandemic relief is available online at [pasenate.com/pacares](https://pasenate.com/pacares).

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

## Protecting Transportation and Infrastructure Jobs

A last-minute change to the final draft of the state Fiscal Code removed a long-standing bonding or borrowing provision for the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) that risked the immediate halt of hundreds of ongoing and planned construction projects statewide. This would have immediately eliminated over 240,000 construction jobs and halted repairs and improvements to structurally deficient bridges, unsafe roadways, and intersections throughout the Commonwealth.

The fact that during a period of historic unemployment caused by COVID-19, we would send even more Pennsylvania workers to unemployment lines while allowing our infrastructure to deteriorate to unsafe conditions is simply unconscionable.

The Administration has worked out short-term solutions to ensure that more than 6,000 ongoing construction projects don't come grinding to a halt until February. However, these projects need funding through the end of June.

It is on us in the General Assembly to pass a long-term solution to the decrease in revenue to the Motor License Fund. We have the power to ensure that hundreds of thousands of our constituents are not in danger of losing their jobs.

Last week, Senator Lindsey Williams and I introduced legislation to provide PennDOT with the necessary authority to bond the funding they need to continue ongoing construction projects across the Commonwealth.

You can read the full memo [here](#).



## 2nd Annual SD44 Lights & Display Contest

2020 has been an incredibly difficult year, but festive lights and decorations are a way for a lot of people to bring back good memories, and help alleviate the anxiety and stress that the holiday season coupled with a pandemic can bring.

We want to highlight your festive decorations this year as we kick off our 'Second Annual SD44 Lights and Display Contest.' Please send us a photo of your display to [events44@pasenate.com](mailto:events44@pasenate.com) and we will feature it on our social media pages! The best submission will receive a special grand prize.

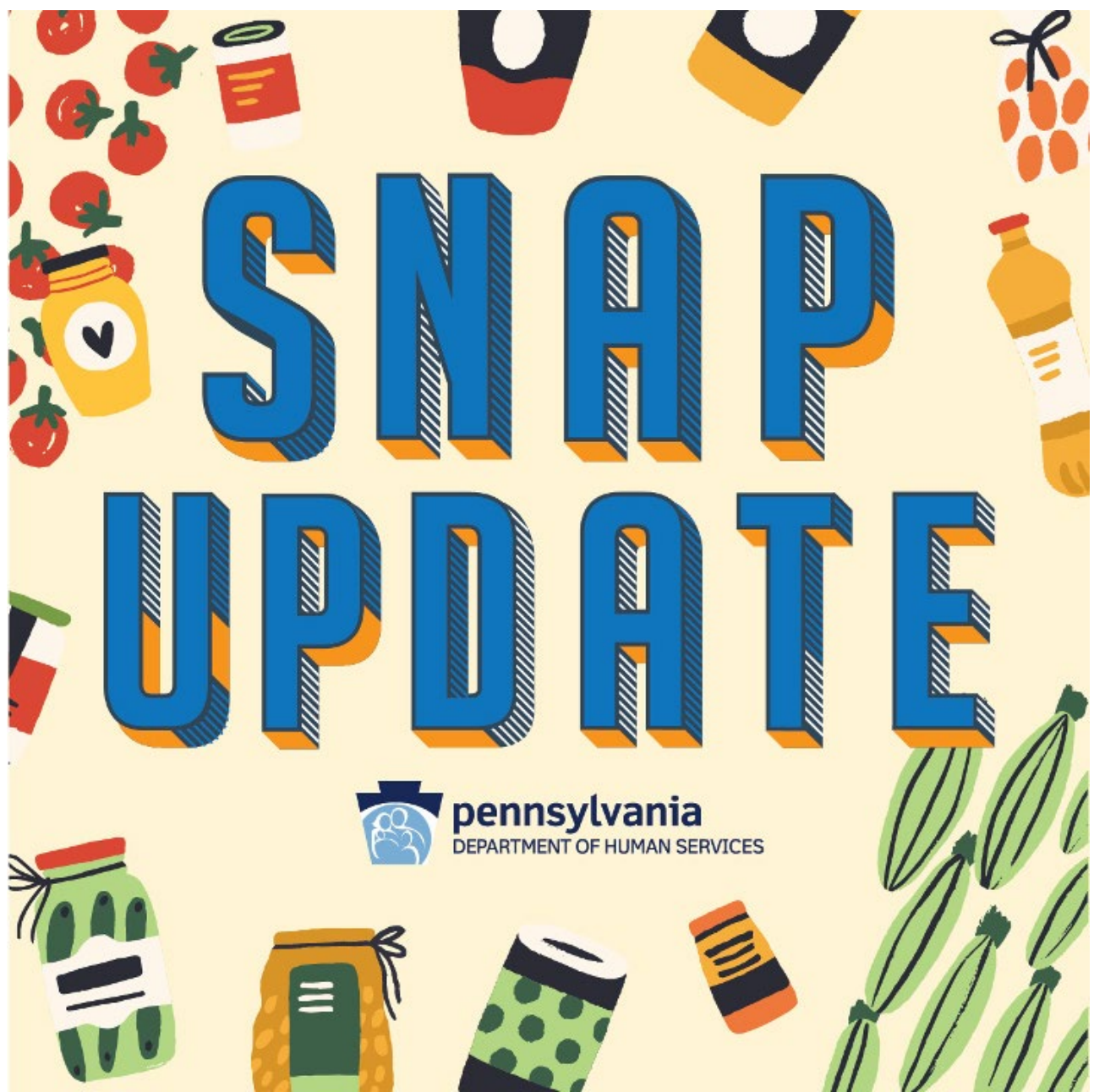
\*\*Please also acknowledge in the email that we are able to feature your home on our social media pages (address/names will not be shared...only the municipality that you live in)\*\*



## Attention SNAP Recipients

All December SNAP payments will be available on EBT cards by December 11, 2020 for operational reasons. You may receive your benefits early, but please be aware that this early issuance is not an additional payment. You will not receive any other payments for the month of December.

- [Information on SNAP](#)
- [Apply for benefits](#)



## Protecting Each Other This Holiday Season

Pennsylvania crossed 5,000 current hospitalizations this past Friday. The number of those patients on ventilators is also rising, with 565 patients — over 100 more than this time last week — currently intubated. The state's record is 685 total ventilators in use, and Pennsylvania is creeping that direction ([source](#))

Pennsylvanians play a huge role in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently.
- Stay home to avoid spreading COVID-19, especially if you are unwell.
- If you must go out, you are required to wear a mask when in a business or where it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing.
- Download the COVID Alert PA app in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store by searching for "covid alert pa" and make your phone part of the fight.

For more information, visit: [Coronavirus in Pennsylvania \(pa.gov\)](#)

[#StaySafe](#) [#GlobalPandemic](#)





## How to Stay Informed

### Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA DoH [Daily COVID-19 report](#). Updated regularly throughout the day.
- 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](#).
- Learn how best to [prevent “community transition”](#) with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

Be sure to check out the complete list of information, data, and resources available to those in:

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)



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from

**KATIE MUTH**  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

Submit your mobile number to stay up-to-date with the latest events and happenings from Senator Katie Muth sent right to your phone.


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