Dear Residents of SD-44:

My office continues to receive a large number of calls and emails from residents who have questions about the COVID vaccine. The number of vaccine doses allocated to Pennsylvania have been much lower than initially anticipated, which has led to much frustration. I have heard your feedback both via calls and emails to my office, as well as on the various town halls that I have held along with county, state and federal partners.

As of TODAY, here is the latest information on how and where to sign-up to get the vaccinated for COVID-19 if you live in the tri-county area:

**Montgomery County**

If you live in or work in Montgomery County and are 65 and older or you have a health condition that qualifies you for the vaccine under Phase 1B or 1C, you can pre-register for the vaccine [HERE](https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/5312/Vaccination-Registry).

If you are a Montgomery County healthcare worker who qualifies for Phase 1A or 1B vaccination, you can have your business or provider fill out [this form](https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/5437/Vaccination-Registry-Providers) to schedule vaccinations.

**Chester County**

Chester County continues to vaccinate groups in Phase 1A to include the individuals 65 and older, and individuals between the ages of 16-64 with certain medical conditions. Vaccine supply remains limited and appointments are offered as more vaccine becomes available.

If you are in the age “16-64 with a medical condition” group*, that now identifies you as Phase 1A, and you completed the previous survey, please complete this form again.

**Berks County**

If you live in Berks County, Vaccine distribution is handled by licensed healthcare providers and pharmacies. The County of Berks 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](https://www.berkscountypa.gov/210/825).

COVID VACCINE DASHBOARD

While working to improve the efficiency of vaccine distribution across the state, the PA DOH has rolled out a new COVID-19 vaccine dashboard, which includes information on the rates of vaccinations administered by county, as well as demographic information about the people being vaccinated. This will hopefully help ensure that there is more transparency in the process, which is critical due to the abundance of misinformation traveling around. Check it out [HERE](https://www.doh.pa.gov).

**Senator Katie Muth**

Pandemic Relief for Eligible Childcare Workers

The Department of Human Services announced the opportunity for one-time, $900 grants for child care workers across Pennsylvania. The funds are available to child care providers licensed by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) through federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) quality dollars and remaining funding previously made available through federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated for child care providers.

Eligible employees include child care workers who:

- Are employed by a licensed child care provider as of January 1, 2021
- Earn less than or equal to a gross salary of $70,000, annually
- Work a minimum of 20 hours per week at a licensed childcare provider.

For more information on child care providers operating during the COVID-19 public health crisis, visit [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov).

**Free Tax Prep Service**

My district office in Royersford Borough is offering a 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 5-7pm beginning January 28 through April 8 (all COVID precautions will be enforced).

You MUST make an appointment by calling my office at 610-752-2317 (ask for Nikki). To learn more about the service and what you will need to bring to your appointment click [HERE](https://www.mtvsmuth.com).
LGBTQ Equality Caucus

It is with a humble heart and deep respect that I accept the position of chairwoman of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus, along with co-chairmen Rep. Brian Sims and Rep. Dan Frankel. Our bi-partisan caucus is more diverse and stronger than ever.

The LGBTQ+ community has always elevated me, and it is time for us to elevate each and every LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanian.

Despite the recent Supreme Court ruling, most Pennsylvanians do not know that you can be married on a Saturday and then evicted from your apartment or fired from your job at will by Monday. We must pass real laws that protect real people.

You have my word that I will not only continue to lead with compassion, but that I will also be strongly vocal in our fight for fair and equitable treatment under the law.

Fighting for Early Childhood Providers

In December, I, along with the other members of the Women’s Health Caucus, wrote a letter to Gov. Wolf regarding the effects of his administration’s early childhood payment policy on the working women of Pennsylvania which has created significant fiscal challenges for early childhood providers, placing high-quality programs at risk of permanent closure.

A sampling of 81 child care centers reported a loss of $1.5 million in state funding in just the first month of the CCDELF funding change. More than four months on, the accumulated financial loss has had devastating effects, with 154 child care centers in Southeast PA going out of business; hundreds more are barely able to keep their doors open. Governor Wolf has the authority to direct new federal funding to child care providers to increase payments moving forward and pay back the funding they lost.

This past Thursday, members of the Women’s Health Caucus and childcare providers discussed how this has reverberated throughout their communities, hurting children, families, and child care center employees and owners. You can watch the full recording here.

Property Tax Rent Rebate Program

The application Deadline for the 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is June 30th, 2021. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older.

For more, click HERE, OR call/email my office and my team can help walk you through the process:

Phone: (610) 792-2137
Email: senatormuth@pasenate.com
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 implement "community transition" with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

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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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