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Dear Residents of SD-44:

In this newsletter you will find information on state resources available to you and your family, hazard pay application information for frontline workers, and updates from Harrisburg and our community.

I have received a number of calls from concerned parents, teachers and staff regarding the various reopening plans presented by school boards throughout the district in preparation for the upcoming school year. I know that this is a challenging time and I have been in contact with all of the boards throughout the 44th to help bridge communication between the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the district. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office and we will do our best to get you an answer or connect you with the right resource.

My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at senatormuth@pasenate.com to help answer your questions and provide you with the resources that you need. We will also continue to share new information through E-blasts, social media and on [website](#) as we receive it to ensure you, your family, schools, and small businesses have the most up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

Policy Hearing on Worker Protections

I, along with my colleagues, State Senator Lindsey Williams (D- Allegheny), State Representatives Elizabeth Fiedler (D- Philadelphia) and Patrick Harkins (D- Erie), in coordination with the Senate and House Democratic Policy Committees, held a joint virtual public [hearing](#) on worker protections during the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential workers have kept our Commonwealth moving throughout the pandemic and we need to continue to bring their voices to the table and learn about the challenges that they continue to face while serving our communities.

Among the bills discussed was [SB1221](#), which I introduced to ensure sufficient PPE and sanitation supplies for workers and businesses. Rep. Patrick Harkins spoke about [HB1082](#), which extends OSHA protections to public sector workers. Both of these bills have not moved out of committee.

Watch a recording of the full hearing [HERE](#).

Joint Virtual Policy Hearing



State Senator
KATIE MUTH



State Senator
LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS



State Rep.
ELIZABETH FIEDLER



State Rep.
PATRICK J. HARKINS

will be holding a

JOINT SENATE & HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

on

WORKER PROTECTION

The Path to Zero Waste Hosted by PennEnvironment

Last Thursday, I [moderated](#) a roundtable discussion hosted by [PennEnvironment](#) that consisted of a panel of experts equipped to discuss the crisis facing our recycling systems. During the roundtable we discussed how we can respond, as government officials and as individuals, to changes in the recycling landscape and to the flood of single-use plastics we're facing every day.

If you missed the discussion you can check out the full recording [HERE](#).

Recycling For Zero Waste



For more information:

- Reduces both upstream and downstream emissions that contribute to climate change
- Equitably protects the health of our communities by reducing the need for extraction and processing
- Creates jobs and local economic development

Key Principles of Zero Waste Recycling

- Local, Circular Supply Chains
- Transparency and Accountability
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Community Control and Engagement
- Incentivizes and Aligned with Reduction



Watch the Paws!

Over the past few weeks the temperatures outside have risen to extreme levels throughout the region. Keep in mind that temperatures on concrete/asphalt can rise to over 140 degrees by late morning.

Follow the below safety tips to protect your pet(s) from the heat and avoid burning their paws .

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM THE HEAT

Q: IS IT TOO HOT TO WALK?



TEST IT!

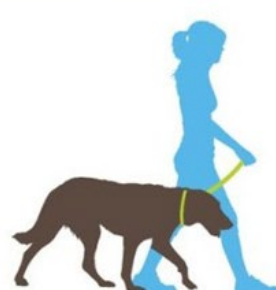
Hold your bare foot on the ground for 7 seconds

A: If it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for bare paws.



SAFE SUMMER TIPS

1. Keep your pet indoors when possible
2. Limit outdoor exercise to early morning or evening
3. Avoid long walks, hikes and excessive play
4. Provide pets with extra, cool water sources
5. Consider dog booties for hot pavement
6. Play in the sprinklers or a kiddie pool
7. Never chain your pet



azhumane.org

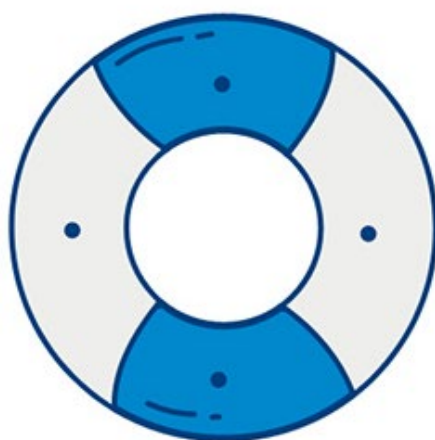
Pennsylvania Resources and Assistance

The additional \$600 federal unemployment benefit ended on July 25th, but help is available. [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#) provides assistance through a variety of state programs! DHS' programs are designed to help eligible Pennsylvanians who have lost income or employment meet essential needs until they are able to start work again. Public assistance programs help ensure that individuals and families can access health care, have enough food to eat, and can pay utilities – things everyone needs to stay healthy and safe and succeed in the workforce.

Programs include:

- [Medicaid](#)
- [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#)
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
- [Child Care Works \(CCW\) subsidized child care](#)
- [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#)

If you need assistance applying for any of these programs, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office by either emailing senatormuth@pasenate.com, or via phone at 610-792-2137. Learn more [HERE](#).



PENNSYLVANIA RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE



DEADLINE: Hazard Pay for Frontline Workers

[\\$50 million](#) from CARES Act funding is being allocated as Hazard Pay for frontline workers via the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Applications will be open for a two-week window closing on **July 31, 2020**.

Businesses, healthcare non-profits, public transportation agencies, and certified economic development organizations may apply for funding for employers located and operating in Pennsylvania within one of the following eligible industries:

- Healthcare and Social Assistance
- Food Manufacturing
- Food Retail Facilities
- Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation
- Security Services for eligible industries listed above and commercial industries that were not closed as a result of the Governor's Business Closure Order
- Janitorial Services to Buildings and Dwellings

Additional details about eligible industries and employers can be found in the [program guidelines](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW THROUGH JULY 31 FOR COVID-19 PA Hazard Pay Grant

to help employers provide hazard pay to employees in life-sustaining occupations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Businesses in these industries are eligible to apply:

- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Food Manufacturing
- Food Retail Facilities
- Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation
- Security Services
- Janitorial Services to Buildings & Dwellings

The hazard pay of up to \$1200 per eligible, full-time equivalent (FTE) employee must be paid over the 10-week period of August 16, 2020 through October 24, 2020 as a \$3/hour hazard pay increase to their regular pay rate.



Learn more: dced.pa.gov/programs/covid-19-pa-hazard-pay-grant

How to Stay Informed

Below is an extensive list of information, statistics, and resources to ensure you stay up-to-date with any changes happening due to COVID-19.

Check out [my website](#) for a comprehensive list of resources or one of the helpful site below.

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

- [Track confirmed cases in the US](#). (This site is updated weekdays at noon and shows numbers that were current as of 4 p.m. the previous day.)
- CDC provided information regarding "[What you should know about COVID-19](#)"
- 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.

World Health Organization

- Learn what's happening Worldwide with the [WHO's Daily report](#). The most recent report is located at the top of the page. It includes confirmed case and death tallies.
- Additional COVID-19 information is provided on their [website](#).
- Stay informed on [Twitter](#).
- Follow their [Facebook](#) page.

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

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)



SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS
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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