Dear Residents of SD-44:

I hope that all of you had a relaxing 4th of July weekend. In this newsletter you will find information on small business grant applications, new COVID-19 testing sites in Senate District 44, rent and mortgage relief, and more!

My district office is now open Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm by appointment only. Masks are required and hand sanitizer will be made available upon entry. If you cannot make it during normal operating hours and need to meet with us in person, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate your schedule.

COVID-19 cases are rising in certain regions across PA, and as a result, Governor Wolf has elevated his mask-wearing requirement to 'mandatory'. Masks must now be worn whenever anyone leaves their home to help ensure that we do not see a resurgence in cases and to keep businesses open.

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 our 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

Small Business Assistance Grants are NOW LIVE

The Department of Community and Economic Development has been allocated $225 million for COVID-19 relief to small businesses through a distribution to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

The application window is now open! Businesses should prepare the following:

- 2018 or 2019 tax return;
- business registration, license, or articles of incorporation;
- must have an e-mail address;
- valid ID;
- electronic versions of documents;
- most recent bank statement;
- description of how the business was impacted by COVID-19;
- and a description of how the business plans to use the funds.

You can find more information and apply at www.pabusinessgrants.com.

From Harrisburg: Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium

Earlier last week, members of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus wrote a letter urging Governor Wolf to extend the eviction and foreclosure moratorium that is set to expire on July 10th.
Let’s be clear: the UC and PUA process has had many shortfalls and it is unacceptable that individuals are still waiting to be compensated after four months in some cases. My office has been working tirelessly to advocate on behalf of our constituents and we will continue to do so to ensure everyone receives the compensation they deserve.

We cannot allow this moratorium to expire when the state has failed to deliver funding to individuals who have lost income or are out of work as a result of COVID-19. Every Pennsylvanian deserves safe and secure housing especially in this critical time of need!

Rental and Mortgage Assistance Grant Program

Applications can be submitted now for tenants, landlords, mortgage companies, and homeowners for the COVID Relief - Rental and Mortgage Assistance Grant Program, which provides assistance with delinquent mortgage and rent caused by unemployment or a 30% reduction in an individual’s household income as a result of COVID-19.

If you would like more information about the program or would like to apply for a grant, head over to: www.phfa.org.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office via senatormuth@pasenate.com if you need additional assistance. We are happy to help you in any way we can.

Unemployment Benefits Extended

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) announced that people who have exhausted their regular unemployment compensation (UC) and federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) may now qualify for 13 additional weeks of payments through the state’s Unemployment Compensation Extended Benefits (EB) program.

Extended Benefits (EB) are additional UC benefits payable to qualified workers whenever the state’s unemployment rate reaches a certain level determined by law.

The current EB period began May 3, 2020, but benefits are not payable until an individual has exhausted PEUC benefits. EB payments will begin with the week ending July 4, 2020 and are payable only for weeks of unemployment during an EB period.

New COVID-19 Testing Sites in Montgomery and Chester Counties

Montgomery County Residents

Several new COVID-19 testing sites will open beginning July 6th. Anyone who needs or wants to be tested can be tested whether or not they have symptoms.

To register, please visit MontCoPA.org/covid-19 and select “County Testing Information” at the top of the page or call 610-970-2937.

For more information, please go to www.phfa.org.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office via senatormuth@pasenate.com if you need additional assistance. We are happy to help you in any way we can.
Chester County Residents

Chester County is currently offering PCR (diagnostic nasal swab) testing at no cost. It is open to all residents and individuals who work in Chester County. Tests are for individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms, who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or who may be asymptomatic.

Please note that schedules are subject to change. If you want to be tested, you can "Register Here."

Montgomery County Primary Election Survey

The Montgomery County Commissioners are looking for feedback regarding your thoughts on the Primary election. Read a message from the Commissioners below:

"Holding a Primary Election during a pandemic presented us all with challenges unlike we've seen before. We experienced an extraordinary number of absentee and mail-in ballots, many polling location changes, and the logistics of voting in person during a pandemic.

That's why we crafted a survey based on YOUR experience during the 2020 Primary Election. Your feedback will help us determine how we approach the 2020 General Election. Your voice, just like your vote, counts."

Be sure to submit your feedback by July 14. Take the survey HERE.

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 sites 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 to protect "community transmitted" 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.
Be sure to check out the complete list of information, data, and resources available to those in:

Berks County
Chester County
Montgomery County

Follow their Facebook page.