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Dear Residents of SD-44:

This past week Senator Pam Iovino, Senator Lisa M. Boscola and I held a [Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on the Impact of COVID-19 on nursing and state veterans' homes](#). COVID-19 has created intense challenges for direct care providers in congregate care settings. They're putting themselves at risk while trying to protect our most vulnerable. COVID-19 has also raised concerns for many family members and that's why transparency and communication with families is imperative as people don't have access to visit their loved ones.



[I am introducing legislation](#) with Senator Maria Collett, Senator Pam Iovino with a companion bill introduced in the House by Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler and Rep. Danielle Friel Otten, for nursing, long term care (LTC) and congregate care (CC) facilities that will address the following:

- Create a protocol for residents, as well as families who are eligible to receive notifications about a resident's health, to review their notification agreement, and update it in the case of an infectious disease outbreak.
- Provide guidance and prioritization for testing and personal protection equipment (PPE) for residents and staff in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Mandate aggregate data to be published by facility outlining the number of confirmed positive and presumed positive COVID-19 cases and deaths due to COVID-19 for residents and staff of the facility.
- Outline inspection, assessment, and auditing guidelines to ensure facilities are following safety and reporting protocol.

I encourage all of our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this life saving piece of legislation in order to help stop the spread of COVID-19 throughout our communities and develop protocols and structures in anticipation of a second surge of cases in the fall.

My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at [senatormuth@pasenate.com](mailto:senatormuth@pasenate.com) to help alleviate some of the confusion, fear, and frustration that you may be dealing with. We will also continue to share new information through E-blasts, social media, and on my [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

## Unemployment Update

A message from the Department of Labor and Industry:

PUA began accepting claims filings – called weekly certifications – late last week. The PUA system will backdate your weekly claims to when you first became unemployed, as reported by you when you entered your last day of work in your initial PUA claim. You can now file weekly certifications for all these previous weeks for PUA benefits. Individuals can file weekly certifications for backdated claims for previous eligible weeks and the first payment will arrive within one week or less.



# PUA SYSTEM UPDATE

**For those that are experiencing issues,  
a resolution will be available once staff review your PUA claims.**

**MONITOR YOUR DASHBOARD FOR MESSAGES + UPDATES**

INFORMATION AND UPDATES  
[www.uc.pa.gov/PUA](http://www.uc.pa.gov/PUA)

PUA claimants can file their continuing weekly certification, and payment will arrive within three business days. If you have questions or need assistance, please email [UCPUA@pa.gov](mailto:UCPUA@pa.gov). This email address is for PUA questions only. Emails not related to PUA will not receive a response.

While many of you were able to file successfully, some of you may have experienced issues. We know people have been anxious to file their PUA claims and we understand the frustration this has caused. A resolution will be available after staff review your claims. PUA claimants should continue to check for messages on their personal dashboard at [www.uc.pa.gov/PUA](http://www.uc.pa.gov/PUA).

**Not sure where your UC claim stands in the UC process?** Check the status of your claim online! Visit

<https://www.paclaims.pa.gov/ucen/LoginClaimStatus.asp>

# Gov. Wolf, Attorney General Shapiro Announce Protections from Foreclosures and Evictions Through July 10

Gov. Wolf



Governor Tom Wolf was joined by Attorney General Josh Shapiro to announce that he signed an [executive order](#) that protects Pennsylvanians from foreclosures or evictions through July 10. The action builds on a Pennsylvania Supreme Court order which closed court eviction proceedings until May 11 and ensures no renter or homeowner will be removed from their home for 60 more days.

In almost all circumstances, renters and homeowners are required to continue making monthly payments. If you are a Pennsylvanian struggling to make your monthly payments, you should contact your landlord or mortgage servicer immediately.

PHFA is also taking action to help homeowners and renters. The agency has stopped foreclosures and evictions and is offering forbearances with late fee waivers to homeowners with a PHFA mortgage who are experiencing a financial hardship because of COVID-19. PHFA also developed a list of [renters' rights and responsibilities](#) to clarify the situation for apartment residents and is working with landlords and property managers to distribute it to renters. PHFA is also encouraging Low-Income Housing Tax Credit building managers to be flexible on rent payments and to waive late fees for tenants whose employment has been affected by the crisis.

## In the Community

The [Honey Brook Food Pantry](#) has been a continuous helping hand for so many neighbors in need during this difficult time.



They have:

Served 450 Families, encompassing 1,545 people through 4/30/20...a 48% increase, including the largest distribution ever (506 people);

Registered 48 new families, each with its own individual story...compared with 14 at this time last year; and

Increased Friday distributions within the community.

Thank you for your hard work in the community.

To help the Honey Brook Food pantry, visit their website

[honeybrookfoodpantry.org/donate](https://honeybrookfoodpantry.org/donate)

## Small Business Grant Programs

### Montgomery County



Recognizing the need to provide support to strengthen our local businesses and communities, the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners announced on May 6th, 2020 [that it is making available \\$5,000,000 in economic development funds](#) to provide grants to eligible small businesses for Round 2 of the MontcoStrong Small Business Grant Program.

Applications will be accepted beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 and the application window will close at approximately 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

### Chester County

**COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISH  
MAIN STREET PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM  
UP TO \$25,000 IN FUNDING FOR  
SMALL BUSINESSES AND  
AG ENTERPRISES AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

Chester Commissioners have set aside \$5 million for a grant program that provides funding for small businesses and agricultural enterprises in the county that were unable to take advantage of existing COVID-19 response programs. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be available to eligible businesses through the Chester County Main Street Preservation program.

Initial eligibility requirements include for-profit small businesses and agricultural enterprises formed and active in 2019 or earlier, with annual revenues of \$500,000 or less. The businesses must be physically located and headquartered in Chester County.

For more details, visit <https://chesco.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1089>

## Sign-up to Vote By Mail

The Pennsylvania primary is less than a month on June 2nd. If you haven't requested a mail-in ballot yet, you can do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Over 500,000 Pennsylvanians have already signed up to vote by mail in the PA primary. It's a great start, but we still need more people voting from home if we're to maintain social distancing on June 2nd.



## Upcoming Event



On Friday, May 15th from 11:00am-12:15pm, Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) is hosting a virtual townhall with Congresswoman Madeleine Dean. I and other Montgomery County legislators will be joining!

This [virtual town hall/community forum](#) will provide students with a platform to discuss challenges facing their public schools during the pandemic.

Elected officials will speak on the challenges facing schools and discuss how we are working, on the federal and state level, to ensure we are protecting education funding, school-related jobs, infrastructure, and more.

This platform is targeted to high school students. You will have a chance to express your concerns and ask us questions directly!

Click [here](#) to join the conversation.

To learn more about PCCY and the work they do, click [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 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](#)**



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*from*



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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