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Dear Residents of SD-44:

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a nice Memorial Day weekend. I spent the day remembering the lives and sacrifices of the veterans who have passed, as well as thinking about those who are living in nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the Commonwealth amidst the Coronavirus pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis [has exacerbated problems](#) that existed in nursing home and long term care facilities for years. When you combine such a vulnerable population with a workforce that is under-protected, understaffed, and underpaid — and then add in the challenges of the novel coronavirus, it's a recipe for a dangerous and deadly scenario that is now a reality in many of these facilities.

I have spent countless hours talking with direct care providers and families who have shed light on issues that have cost the lives of our veterans and elderly residents in nursing and long-term care facilities.



In a call earlier this week with Maj. Gen. Anthony Carrelli, head of the state DMVA, [I called for the removal](#) of top administrative staff at the Southeastern Veterans' Center after learning of questionable treatment protocols and the continued influx of troubling information that I receive from family members and individuals close to the center.

I will not let the veterans in this facility, their families, and the healthcare workers who care for the residents continue to suffer under the failed leadership at the SEVC. I have also submitted a formal written request to Attorney General Josh Shapiro to conduct a thorough criminal investigation into possible violations at the center.

My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at 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

Senator Katie Muth

Gov. Wolf Moves Chester, Montgomery and Berks Counties to Yellow on June 5th

Southeast Region

Moving from Red to Yellow on June 5

(Schuylkill County moved to Yellow May 29)

● All businesses must follow CDC and DOH guidance for social distancing and cleaning.

● Monitor public health indicators, adjust orders and restrictions as necessary.

Work & Congregate Setting Restrictions:

- Telework Must Continue Where Feasible;
- Businesses with In-Person Operations Must Follow Business and Building Safety Orders;
- Child Care Open Complying with Guidance;
- Congregate Care and Prison Restrictions in Place;
- Schools Remain Closed for In-Person Instruction.

Social Restrictions:

- Stay at Home Restrictions Lifted in Favor of Aggressive Mitigation;
- Large Gatherings of More Than 25 Prohibited;
- In-Person Retail Allowable, Curbside and Delivery Preferable;
- Indoor Recreation, Health and Wellness Facilities (such as gyms, spas, hair salons, nail salons), and all Entertainment (such as casinos, theaters) Remain Closed;
- Restaurants and Bars Limited to Carry-Out and Delivery Only.

Furthering his plan for reopening Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Wolf announced eight additional counties will move to yellow by June 5 at 12:01 a.m. I know that this process has been incredibly frustrating due to the devastating effects that the virus has had on our region. With that said, moving to the yellow phase does not erase the economic losses that our region has faced due to extended closures, so I am working with the administration to appropriate a large share of federal stimulus dollars back into Montgomery, Chester, and Berks Counties in order to help small businesses and rebuild our communities.

Food Recovery Infrastructure Grants

I am happy to report that 3 local food banks in SD-44 were awarded grants through the food recovery infrastructure grant program. A total of \$158,942 is coming to our district to help ensure that food banks are adequately supplied to meet the needs of Pennsylvania residents.

This grant was awarded to the:

[Daily Bread Community Food Pantry](#)

[Chester County Food Bank](#)

[Honey Brook Food Pantry](#)

Grants will allow food banks, shelters and soup kitchens to cover the costs of equipment purchases necessary to prepare, transport, and store food acquired from retailers, wholesalers, farms, processors, and cooperatives. These grants will also foster a relationship between the food banks and local farms to get more food to the people who

need it and will help prevent harvested crops from going spoiled during this time.

FOOD RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

\$158,942



TODAY- Mail-in Ballot Registration Deadline:

DEADLINES for the June 2 Primary Election:

- **5 pm May 26**
APPLICATIONS for mail-in and absentee ballots must be RECEIVED by your county election office
- **8 pm June 2**
VOTED BALLOTS must be RECEIVED by your county election office - postmarks do not count



Apply Online at VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

Registered voters can apply for a mail-in ballot online with a [valid PA driver's license or photo I.D.](#) from the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Military and overseas voters should visit the [information for military and overseas voters web page](#) for information on how they can obtain an absentee ballot.

SNAP Program Update



My office has heard from many constituents who receive SNAP benefits, but are unable to leave their homes due to health concerns. We have good news! The Wolf Administration received approval from the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow Pennsylvania to join the pilot program that lets recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, purchase groceries online through participating retailers.

The pilot program currently includes three approved retailers: Amazon, Walmart, and ShopRite. DHS expects to have online grocery purchasing activated for SNAP recipients by the beginning of June.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Scam Slam Event

Join us on May 28 for our Coronavirus Scam Slam event.

□ During this unprecedented time, scams have been continually increasing and targeting many members of our community, especially the elderly.

We want to make sure everyone has the tools and resources they need to protect themselves.

Find more information 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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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.



DISTRICT OFFICE

338 Main Street
Royersford, PA 19468
Phone: (610) 792-2137
Fax: (610) 948-3037

HARRISBURG OFFICE

185 Main Capitol | Senate Box 203044
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044
Phone: (717) 787-1398
Phone: (717) 783-4587