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Dear Residents of SD-44:

Last week, Chester County Coroner Christina VandePol, M.D. and I called for [an immediate investigation](#) into the handling of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Southeast Veterans' Center (SEVC) in East Vincent Township, Chester County. After three weeks of back and forth calls with state and county entities, trying to get answers about what was being done to improve the outbreak, I grew increasingly frustrated and concerned about the lack of clear protocol. The situation at the Southeast Veterans is absolutely unacceptable. For the last three weeks, I've received calls and emails from concerned family members, worried about their loved ones, asking questions about what's being done to stop further spread of this virus. Long-term care facilities, like SEVC, are struggling to keep the virus from infecting both residents and staff, and with inadequate testing capacity and unreliable supply chains for personal protective equipment (PPE), this struggle becomes even more challenging. There are many unanswered questions about the surge of cases and deaths at the center, and without answers of substance, it's clear that the current plan is failing.



Following [press coverage](#) of the conditions at SEVC, staff members from SEVC contacted legislator offices, asking for help and intervention. Hearing their stories and struggles brought me to tears. This isn't just a lack of supplies or staffing shortages, this is healthcare providers crying out for help because they feel their patients are at extreme risk because of a failing protocol.

Long-term care facilities like nursing and veterans homes have been some of the hardest hit during the pandemic. It is imperative that the Southeast Veteran Center provide a safe environment for the veteran residents, and the dedicated staff who serve them. Failing our Veterans and their families, and failing our frontline workers is simply not an option. It is part of my job as your Senator to protect our frontline healthcare heroes and in return, save the lives of those who were willing to sacrifice their lives for us.

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

## “In” Harrisburg

On **Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 12:00PM** Senator Pam Iovino and I, along with the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, will hold a Virtual Policy Hearing entitled: **“The Impact of COVID-19 on Nursing and State Veterans' Homes.”**

We will hear testimony from nursing home officials and workers. Additionally, testimony will be offered by family members that have been affected as their loved ones are residents in these homes.

Pre-register to join us via the zoom below. The hearing will also be live-streamed from the caucus Facebook account and my Facebook.

[PRE-REGISTER HERE](#)

## Unemployment Update

We have received many calls and emails to our office from constituents that we have assisted stating that they have started to receive their unemployment compensation benefits.

**FYI:** For your first, biweekly filing and claim, it can take up to 4 to 6 weeks to receive payment. Please do not forget to file your biweekly claim or you could lose your benefits. Learn more [HERE](#).

**PUA UPDATE:** For anyone that has had trouble entering their employment history into the system, Labor and Industry has stated that this was a glitch in their system and the problem has been corrected. You should be able to input this information and continue with your application.

**PIN UPDATE:** If it's been more than 3 weeks + you still have not received your PIN, please request a new PIN

<https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/DLI-UC/Pin-Request>

Please be assured that once approved, you'll receive back pay for the weeks you were unable to file. We apologize for the inconvenience.

**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>



**FOR YOUR FIRST, BIWEEKLY FILING AND CLAIM, IT CAN TAKE UP TO FOUR TO SIX WEEKS TO RECEIVE PAYMENT**

Moving forward, you'll receive payment within two to three days after filing your biweekly. If you file your biweekly claim on:

✓ = FILED    \$ = FUNDS AVAILABLE

**! DON'T FORGET TO FILE YOUR BIWEEKLY CLAIM OR YOU COULD LOSE YOUR BENEFITS!**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
✓		\$				
	✓		\$			
		✓		\$		
			✓		\$	
				✓		
	\$				✓	✓
		\$				

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Millions of Americans every year live with a mental illness. Throughout their lifetimes, 1-in-5 people will be affected by mental illness. The month of May is a time to fight the stigma associated with mental illness, to educate people about mental illness, and to advocate for policies that support the people and families currently experiencing mental illness.

Take care of YOU

- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Mental Health Resources for Veterans](#)



## Shop4Seniors

A group of local college students founded an organization called [www.Shop4Seniors.org](http://www.Shop4Seniors.org), which provides free delivery of groceries to the elderly by volunteers. Currently they have over 50 volunteers who are excited to help, but need to get the word out.

If you or someone you know could use this service check it out via the image below and share! There is also a link on the site to volunteer if you are interested in helping local seniors in need.



## The Pennsylvania CARES Plan

[The Pennsylvania CARES Plan](#)

Early last week the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus unveiled a plan for how to allocate federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds.

[The Pennsylvania CARES Plan](#) offers a set of spending priorities on how to best use the \$3.9 billion in federal CARES ACT funding the Commonwealth is set to receive. Our plan prioritizes hardworking people and families, small businesses, education and frontline workers who have been hardest by the pandemic.

Highlights of the plan include:

- \$1.1 billion for assistance for working people
- \$900 million for education and childcare initiatives
- \$650 million for the health care industry, first responders & frontline workers assistance

- ☐ \$425 for small businesses
- ☐ \$350 million for local government assistance
- ☐ \$300 million for historically disadvantaged communities

## Sign-up to Vote By Mail

The Pennsylvania primary is exactly a month from today, 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.

## 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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