Dear Residents of SD-44:

Early last week the Governor announced an amendment to the existing COVID-19 orders to allow for adjusted capacity to gathering limits. These changes went into effect on Friday, October 9th. I am happy to see that these guidelines will expand the capacity of venues relative to their overall size, so that more individuals can watch their children play sports or take part in important events.

Venues must require attendees to comply with 6-foot social distancing, wear masks or face coverings, and implement best practices such as timed entry, multiple entry and exit points, multiple restrooms and hygiene stations. Adhering to this guidance will help ensure the safety of the community, including front line workers, first responders, seniors, and vulnerable communities. The adjusted capacity limits are listed below.

### EVENT & GATHERING CAPACITY INCREASE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indoor</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,500 people</td>
<td>2,000 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 people</td>
<td>5,000 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000 people</td>
<td>10,000 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Social distancing, masks, and other CDC guidelines must be enforced.

For spaces that do not have defined occupancy guidelines, the space will be limited to 25 people per 1000 square feet.

You are not alone when faced with issues that you need assistance with. We are here to help! 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.

Senator Katie Muth

### Extended: Mortgage and Rental Assistance

On Tuesday Governor Wolf signed an emergency order suspending the statutory deadline provision in the COVID Relief Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program. The deadline under section 191-C(g)(3) of Act 24 of 2020 originally scheduled for Sept. 30 was stayed by the governor for 30 days until Nov. 4, 2020, in order for the program to be able to continue accepting applications.

The CARES assistance programs for Pennsylvania renters and homeowners have been reopened and will be accepting applications until Nov. 4. All eligibility requirements remain the same as they were when the programs ended on Sept. 30. Work will continue on applications submitted prior to Oct. 1, and new applications will be added to the pool of submissions undergoing review.

### Pennie: Pennsylvania’s New Health Insurance Marketplace

Pennie is Pennsylvania’s new health insurance marketplace that will replace healthcare.gov for Pennsylvanians shopping for health insurance. The new state-based program will offer affordable, high-quality individual market coverage.

![Pennie Logo](image)

Unlike healthcare.gov, Pennie will be extending the open enrollment period. The website launches on Nov. 1 with enrollment through January 15. Also of note, the current Supreme Court battle over the Affordable Care Act has no effect on this change or coverage.
Disabled and Need Someone to Deliver Your Ballot?

If you or someone you know is a voter who has an illness or disability that will prevent them from dropping off their ballot, there are different guidelines in place from county to county:

**Montco:** You can designate an agent to pick up/drop off your ballot. The agent can only pick up/drop off for voters who are in the same household, and the ballot can only be picked up & returned to 425 Swede St, Norristown PA. The first page is signed by the agent & the second page needs to be signed by the voter. Call: 610-278-3275

**Chester:** If you are a disabled voter who needs assistance, call 610-344-6410

**Berks:** Voters with disabilities or voters who are hospitalized and need an emergency absentee ballot, can designate someone in writing to deliver their ballot. Designated agents can drop off the ballot & Designated Agent Form at the Berks County Elections Office. Call: 610-478-6490

For more information click [HERE](#).

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In the District: The Great Pumpkin Patch of Kindness

Here is a photo of Spring-Ford high school students Allison and Ashley painting the Simply Positive Kids "Great Patch of Kindness" on our district office windows in Royersford Borough.

Print and cut out a pumpkin and have your kids color it in and write one way they can show kindness or help a stranger in the month of October.

Head down to my office on Main Street in Royersford and safely drop your pumpkins off in our pumpkin mailbox! My team and I will check the mailbox and place your pumpkins in the patch! Be sure to put your name on the back of your pumpkin and Simply Positive Kids will draw a winner on Halloween for a $25 gift card to Handel’s of Royersford!

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$11.79 Million Awarded to Small Businesses in the Tri-County Area

Last week the Governor announced $96 million in state grants awarded to small businesses in all 52 counties. Our region was the hardest hit at the onset of the pandemic and I am happy to see that we are receiving a sizeable portion of CARES dollars to help our smallest and most vulnerable businesses.

That being said, there are still businesses who have applied and have not received assistance and I will continue to urge my colleagues to prioritize the needs of these businesses. Lastly, wear a mask. We desperately need to stop the spread of the virus. By wearing a mask, practicing good hygiene, and social distancing we can save lives and businesses, especially our small businesses.

For a breakdown by county you can click [HERE](#).
How to Stay Informed

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA DH 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

- 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.

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

- Berks County
- Chester County
- Montgomery County