

Slate Belt Town Topics

AREA'S ONLY DAILY ONLINE PUBLICATION AT SBTOPICS.COM

Below is a story from Wednesday April 1 updating COVID 19 in Northampton County. We plan to do updates everyday which should be published around noon or shortly thereafter.

Northampton County COVID 19 Cases Grow by 67 to 312

by Larry Cory

The number of COVID 19 cases in Northampton County continues to rise. Since March 18 when we only had one case of the virus, the spread has grown to 312 cases in just two weeks according to information released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in its daily briefing today.

For the second straight day Northampton's cumulative total of 312 has surpassed Monroe County with 278, which has had more since the pandemic began. Lehigh County has 374 bringing the Lehigh Valley a total of 944

In New Jersey Warren County had 76 and Hunterdon County 97 and Sussex 132 according to Monday's information.

Making matters worse is the concern of State

Tuscarora Hosting Quarantined Medics and First Responders

Tuscarora is here to help! During the COVID-19 health crisis Tuscarora is opening its doors to first responders and medical professionals who need to be in quarantine.

Visit the Tuscarora website at tuscarora.org/covid-inquiry if you need to be in quarantine due to symptoms or self-imposed for the safety of those you love.

Your stay is free of charge as Tuscarora's way to say thank you for the way you sacrifice for the health of others!

lawmakers representing the Pocono Mountains who are pressing the Pennsylvania Governor Wolf's administration to crack down on short-term vacation rentals that are trying to entice travelers from virus hotspots in New Jersey and New York, and the governor says that he plans to take action.

With the worst potentially still ahead, guidance from the PA State Department of Health advises "Stay home as much as possible. Try to get groceries once per week instead of daily. Several counties are under Stay at Home Orders through April 30. Freedom of travel remains, but please refrain from non-essential travel. Essential travel includes things like commuting to an essential job, picking up supplies like groceries and medicine, and checking on family and pets in other households. Do not host or attend gatherings."



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PA Senate Passes Several Virus Related Bills

Senator Mario Scavella (R-40) said the State Senate convened remotely today to pass several bills to keep Pennsylvania moving forward during the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency, including a bill to provide school mandate relief and assist schools, students and teachers.

The coronavirus response measures included:

- Senate Bill 751, which updates Pennsylvania's School Code to waive a number of mandates on schools that cannot be fulfilled under the current circumstances.
- Senate Bill 422, which postpones Pennsylvania's primary election from April 28 to June 2.
- House Bill 68, which provides for emergency changes to the state's Unemployment Compensation law in response to COVID-19.
- House Bill 1232, which provides additional funding to healthcare facilities to purchase medical supplies and equipment and extends the deadline for certain state and local income tax payments and filings.
- Senate Bill 751 would waive the requirement that all public schools must be open at least 180 days per school year. The bill gives the Secretary of Education the authority to waive similar restrictions for career and technical schools and pre-kindergarten instruction. The bill would also give the Secretary of Education authorization to increase the number of flexible instruction days that may be used by a school district and waive other requirements for educator preparation programs and assessment exams for career and technical students. It also guarantees that teachers will receive the same compensation they would have received if the pandemic had not occurred.

Daisy Family Restaurant

Daisy Family Restaurant's full menu, including ice cream, is available for take out only. Order by phone for curbside pickup and have your food brought to your vehicle, OR order at the counter and take it with you. NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO DINE INSIDE. 6589 Sullivan Trail Wind Gap, (610) 863-4044.

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Bangor PD Needs Sanitizing Products

Due to a shortage of hand sanitizer, Clorox and Lysol products, the Bangor Police Department is asking if anyone has any extra hand sanitizer, Clorox or Lysol wipes and would like to donate them, if so call (610-588-4720) or stop by the station.

SBRPD Needs Sanitizing Products

Slate Belt Regional Police Department need s disinfecting wipes (Clorox type). Their officers are out performing their jobs, dealing with our neighbors and friends where help is needed; all while attempting to keep themselves and their own families safe during these unusual times. If you should have a container of antiseptic wipes that you would be willing to donate, we would be ever so grateful. Just one container, we aren't asking you to deplete your supply, just one container from a few people would tide us over until the stores are resupplied again. They are wiping down cars, duty belts, radios, pretty much everything... constantly...for your protection and ours. Call 610.759.8517 (Please DO NOT call 9-1-1

St. Luke's Care Now Open

St. Luke's Care Now – Wind Gap, 487 East Moorestown Road Wind Gap, 484-526-7850

Monday through Friday: 7:30 am – 10:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8 am – 8 pm

ALL LOCAL SCHOOLS CLOSED INDEFINITELY

Main Street Market Hours

Main Street Market in Bangor will be allowing anyone 60 and over and anyone with compromised health to shop in our store from 9am to 10am only. After that the store will be open to all public from 10 to 6pm Sunday through Saturday.

Thank you,

Duane and Nichole Smith



SERVICE CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT



In an effort to ensure continuity of your essential collection services, Waste Management is temporarily suspending bulk collection pickups effective Monday, March 30th.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!



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Main Street Market

Open 9 am - 6 pm, 7 days a week, effective Thursday, March 19 From 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. they will hold special shopping hours for shoppers 65 and over, the immune compromised as well as pregnant women.

Weona Park

Weona Park is closed to all practices of any athletic teams.

Equipment and pavilions will not be sanitized.
It is strongly advised that you do not utilize the park until further notice.

Pen Argyl Borough

Pen Argyl Borough office staff will be conducting business but there will be no face to face interactions. If you have general business with the Borough, please call 610-863-4119 or email the department you might need:

secretary@penargylborough.com (general matters, sewer billing questions and final sale certifications).
admin@penargylborough.com (general matters, feral cat questions and rental registrations).
manager@penargylborough.com (all of the above and any other questions you might have regarding the Borough.)

Waste Management

Please bag all trash and place in your trash can or Toter. Please do not leave any trash items loose in these containers.

Recycling should be loose. They can't collect bagged

BASD Student meals available via curbside pickup between 10:00 am and 12:00 p.m. Not on weekends. e-mailed orders through meals@bangorsd.org by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to pick up.

Slate Belt Senior Center Open M-F 11-12:30 For Meal Service OnLY

Portland Borough Playground - closed

Public Libraries - closed until further notice. Bangor patrons may use drop box. No fines. Nothing overdue.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Online

recycling since plastic bags tangle the machines.

School Assessments & Keystone Exams

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has announced the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and Keystone Exams will be canceled this year because of the coronavirus that has forced schools to close for at least two weeks.

Document Shredding:

April 4th :CANCELLED

May 2nd :CANCELLED

Electronics Recycling:

April 18th :CANCELLED

April 25th :CANCELLED

May 9th :CANCELLED

Tentative Events:

These events will be confirmed as the dates approach

May 16th : Household Hazardous Waste

June 13th : Electronics Recycling

Bangor Womens Club April Activities

April 8 Pinochle Cancelled.

April 16 Card Party Cancelled.

April 21 Club meeting Cancelled.

April 24 Bridge Marathon Cancelled.

services only.

HUB Teen Center - closed until further notice

Roseto Helping Hands - Bring-A-Friend Bingo ppd to April 19 at Roseto legion.

St. Luke's Coronavirus hotline - at 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537), option 7 or email us at coronavirus@sluhn.org

CVS - Free Delivery Service

REAL ID enforcement deadline extended by one year to Oct. 1, 2021, in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Attention UMBT Residents - "It has been determined by the CDC that the virus can remain viable for hours to days on some waste materials. Advanced Disposal requires all waste be bagged in 32-gallon bags. Loose trash will not be picked up. For containers, all trash must be bagged in the container. Recycling must remain loose in containers. Effective March 30th no loose trash will be accepted.

"Bangor Memorial Park equipment and facilities are not able to be disinfected. Residents are advised not to use park facilities. Thank you for your cooperation as we all work to reduce the impact of this virus" - *Brook Kerzner, Bangor Mayor*

Napoli Pizza (610) 588-1455. 444 S 1st St, Bangor. Open for pick up & delivery.

Slate Belt Diner - open for take out. 610-452-9205, 370 Blue Valley Drive.

Plainfield Township - outdoor facilities remain open, however, Plainfield personnel can't sanitize the apparatus and playground equipment. They ask you to use common sense when bringing children to their facilities and not congregating in groups of five (5) or more as per the Centers for Disease Control Guidance.

Pennsylvania Tax Day Delayed

Pennsylvania has now followed the federal government in extending Tax day deadlines.

Washington Twsp Open Burning

Due to the Federal, State and County Disaster Declarations in place Washington Twp Fire Co. will restrict open burning to rainy days only with permission. Thank you for your understanding.

East Bangor Fire Co. Needs

Due to the COVID-19 Virus the East Bangor Vol Fire Company is asking residents and business for items they need of to keep their crews safe. Items include:

Hand Sanitizer, Lysol spray, Tyvek suits, Lysol/Clorox wipes, Isopropyl Alcohol(rubbing alcohol) minimum 91%, Pure Aloe Vera gel, and Masks.

Call 610-462-1132 to make donation. Any help is appreciated! The Fire Co. can pick it up.

PASD School Meals

Students and parents are welcome to pick up meals by entering the bus loop located in the front of the Wind Gap Middle School between the hours of 11:30-1:00. The distribution will be curbside. No admittance to the building is permitted.

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National Weather Service Forecast

Today - Mostly sunny, with a high near 52. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tonight - Increasing clouds, with a low around 40. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday - A slight chance of showers before 7am, then a slight chance of rain between 7am and 8am, then a slight chance of showers after 8am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. North wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday Night - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday - Partly sunny, with a high near 56. North wind around 5 mph.

PA 511 Traffic Alerts - 7:00am Today

- **Delabole Rd closed from American Bangor Road to Molasses Rd** for Bridge repair until mid June, 2020.
- **Roadwork on Belvidere Road both directions** 0 miles West of DePues Ferry Road, PPL. Lane restriction.
- **Damaged roadway on Five Points - Richmond Road** in both directions between Messenger St, Bangor, Park Drive and Sunset Drive. Lane restriction.
- **Roadwork on I-78 westbound** between Mile Post: 60.5 and Mile Post: 60.0. There is a lane restriction.
- **Roadwork on I-78 westbound** between .5 miles west of Exit 45: PA 863 - and .7 miles west of Exit 35: PA 143 - traffic disruption.



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BUSINESS HOURS

Mon 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM • Tue 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wed-Thu 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Fri 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM • Sat 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Stay-At-Home Order for Lehigh & Northampton

Approved Activities:

- Essential to maintain health and safety, or the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets), such as obtaining medicine or medical supplies, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves, for their family or household members, or as part of volunteer efforts, or to deliver those services or supplies to others to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking or running (if they maintain social distancing)
- To perform work providing essential products and services at a life-sustaining business
- To care for a family member or pet in another household
- Any travel related to the provision of or access to the above-mentioned individual activities or life-sustaining business activities
- Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons
- Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services
- Travel to return to a place of residence from an outside jurisdiction
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order
- Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the commonwealth

No Commuter Service To NYC

Amid Trans-Bridge Lines temporarily ceasing commuter service to hard-hit NYC

LVHN Services at Bangor Center

LVHN ExpressCARE-Bangor has temporarily suspended services because of the COVID 19 crisis.

Heritage Center Opening Postponed

The Slate Belt Heritage Center scheduled for April will be postponed, including the pick up and mailing date for the pre-ordered Textile Book. They will let you know when.

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PPL Waives Late Fees

PPL Electric Utilities has waived all late payment fees and announced it will not cut service to any customers for unpaid bills until further notice.

PPL has several programs available to help customers who are having a hard time paying their bills: OnTrack offers a lower, fixed monthly bill and debt forgiveness for customers who make 150 percent of the poverty level or less. Operation HELP or OnTrack visit www.pplelectric.com/billhelp or call 1-800-342-5775.

CARES can help customers experiencing a temporary hardship. Calling 1-800-358-6623.

Met-Ed Suspends Shut-offs

Effective immediately, Met-Ed is temporarily discontinuing power shutoffs for customers who are past due on their electric bills.

FirstEnergy, Met-Ed's parent company, will continue to monitor the coronavirus response situation and adjust the shutoff policy in the future as circumstances develop.

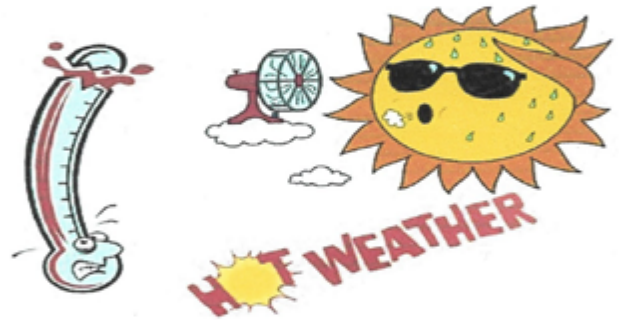
Met-Ed encourages customers who are having difficulty paying their electric bill to contact its customer service department at 1-800-545-7741 to discuss customer assistance programs.

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SBNR Needs Masks & Gowns

Slate Belt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. is in desperate need of masks and long sleeve gowns.

They currently have no patients or staff testing positive for coronavirus, and want that to continue.

The majority of their patients are elderly and arrive there when they are released from the hospital, but not well enough to go home.

Portland Mount Bethel Food Pantry

111 State St, Portland, PA 18343. (570) 897-5847

Mondays 10am-11:30 a.m. and 6pm-7:30 p.m.

Curbside service is available.

Free Dinner

The East Bangor United Methodist Community Church welcomes you to a Free (Pick-Up Only) Chicken Parmesan Dinner on Sunday, April 5th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Note Time Change).

This is Pick-Up Only! to maintain social distancing. The church is located at 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512), East Bangor, PA.

Questions? call 610-588-4453 or visit <http://ebumc.org/>.

Pen Argyl Parking Meters

Parking Meter Enforcement in Pen Argyl has been suspended.

Mass Suspension

The Allentown Catholic Diocese has extended its suspension of Masses through Holy Week, meaning churches will be empty on Easter — the holiest day on the Christian calendar, commemorating the Resurrection of Christ

Trout Fishing

The PFBC has adjusted its trout season schedule and will host just one statewide mentored youth fishing day on April 11 and a statewide opening day on April 18. Also, to reduce unnecessary travel and social contact amid health concerns, anglers and boaters may display their fishing license, launch permit or boat registration digitally on a phone or other mobile device as proof of possession.

State Parks Closed

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has closed all facilities at state parks and forests through at least April 30. This includes visitor centers; restrooms; campgrounds, cabins and other overnight accommodations; and public programs and events. The public may continue to access trails, lakes, roads and parking for passive and dispersed recreation, such as hiking.

Easton Hospital Gets \$8M

Easton Hospital received \$8 million in state funding to stay open for four weeks to care for an expected surge in coronavirus patients, according to a Steward Health Care source

Blood Donations Needed

There is a critical need for blood and platelets across the U.S. Many blood drives were canceled due to workplace & school #COVID19 #coronavirus closures.

‘If you would like to #donateblood, you can find the closest location here: <http://rcblood.org/2UyPOkerc>

Mission of Love Food Pantry

555 N Main St Bangor, PA., 610-599-0369

Tues 9 a.m. to noon through the COVID-19 mitigation (Offering drive up service only).

United Way

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
Dial 2-1-1 or 855-501-6785 Bangor Office - 610-588-8011. Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Johnsonville Farm & Garden Mkt

They are closed Mondays for the time being. Open Tuesday through Saturday 8-3, Sunday 8-1.

Feel free to give them a call at (610)599-0163 and they will be glad to answer your questions.

PA 211

PA 211 has text auto-notifications that provide the latest assistance and crisis information. To receive updates - text PACOVID to 898-211