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Please do not reply to this email. You can reach my office by emailing senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com.

State Senator
**LINDSEY M.
WILLIAMS**
Your District 38 Update



Join Senator Williams for a Town Hall on Thursday, June 11

Senator Williams will be hosting a virtual Town Hall on June 11, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. with Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jerry Oleksiak. Senator Williams and Secretary Oleksiak will be able to discuss general questions regarding the Unemployment Compensation process, including the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Benefits (additional \$600 per week benefits), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for self-employed individuals and contractors, and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation for individuals who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits. Due to the format, questions about individual claims will not be addressed at this Town Hall. If you have questions about your individual Unemployment Claim, please contact the office at 412-364-0469 or SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com and we will be happy to assist you.

[Register for Thursday's Town Hall with Secretary Oleksiak](#)

Virtual Town Hall with Department of Labor & Industry Secretary Oleksiak

Thursday, June 11 @ 5:30 PM



Senator Lindsey M. Williams



Secretary Jerry Oleksiak
Department of Labor and
Industry

Register at <https://bit.ly/3fadeFz>

As of Friday, Allegheny County Has Gone Green!

Governor Wolf signed the order for Allegheny County to move into the Green Phase. You can read the formal order as a [PDF](#).

What does Green Phase actually mean? You can look for restaurants and bars to allow in-person dining, although there will be health precautions and social distancing still in place, which may mean reduced capacity. Hair salons and barbershops will reopen for appointments. Gyms, health and wellness facilities, and spas will be open at a 50% capacity.

Working from home is still strongly recommended whenever possible and people are encouraged to continue to remain vigilant, wear masks when out and about, and practice social distancing.

You can learn more about the process to Reopen Pennsylvania [here](#).

Highlights of Guidance During GREEN PHASE

with Proper Safety Measures

- **Continued teleworking is strongly encouraged**
- **Businesses must follow updated business and building safety requirements**
- **Businesses operating at 50% occupancy in the Yellow Phase may increase to 75% occupancy**
- **Childcare may open, complying with guidance**
- **Congregate care restrictions remain in place**
- **Schools remain closed for the academic year, subject to CDC and Commonwealth Guidance**
- **Any gathering for a planned or spontaneous event of greater than 250 individuals is prohibited, including concerts, festivals, fairs, conferences, sporting events, movie showings, theater performances, etc.**
- **Personal care services, including hair salons and barber shops, must operate by appointment only, with 50% occupancy.**
- **All entertainment open at 50% occupancy**
- **Appointments or reservations are strongly encouraged for gyms and spas.**
- **Visitation to prisons and hospitals may resume, subject to the discretion of the facility.**

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-thanks-pennsylvanians-for-continuing-to-do-their-part-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19/>



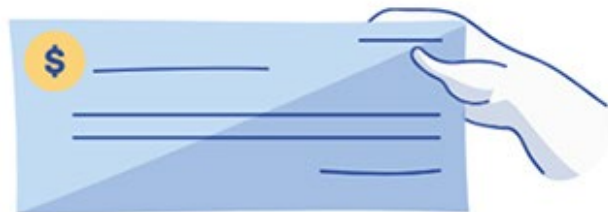
Highlights of Dining Guidance During GREEN PHASE

Restaurants and bars are permitted to provide take-out, delivery sales, and dine-in services in both indoor and outdoor seating areas, so long as they strictly adhere to the requirements of the guidance, including maximum occupancy limits:

- **Open at 50% occupancy;**
- **Bar seating if patrons are 6 feet apart or there are physical barriers between people;**
- **No standing in bar areas;**
- **Maximum of four customers with a common relationship may sit together;**
- **No business is required to conduct in-person operations and should not do so if unable to follow applicable guidance.**



Unemployment Update



PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

PAYMENT UPDATE

INFORMATION AND UPDATES
www.uc.pa.gov

Visit the [PA Dept. of Labor & Industry](#) website to access information on how you can manage your benefits, report fraud, and access step-by-step unemployment guides, and more!

FAQ'S

I am still able to claim partial PUA benefits as their small businesses reopen under green status either at a limited capacity?

Yes, you can file even if you've had reduced wages/hours but are working. You should continue to file and submit the requested information. The Department of Labor & Industry will evaluate your claim and adjust your benefits amount appropriately.

My job reduced my hours and I am collecting UC or will be filing for UC. Am I eligible for the extra \$600 a week?

Yes. All individuals collecting regular UC or PUA are eligible for the \$600 per week.

My employer offered me my job back, but I would make more staying on Unemployment. Can I do this?

No. If you are offered work by your employer and refuse to accept it without good cause, you may no longer be eligible for UC. Determining whether there was good cause for a refusal of work is driven by the facts of each claimant's circumstances. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, if an employee refuses to return to work because they are at high risk of complications from the virus and their employer cannot make reasonable accommodations for them, or if they were being asked to return to work at reduced hours that result in them earning less than they did before the pandemic, UC staff would review those specific reasons and make determinations based on the facts of their individual cases.

PUA Claimants will be receiving their PUA benefit payments via paper checks for the foreseeable future as a precaution. The [Notice of Pandemic Unemployment](#)

[Assistance Filed](#) was mailed to all PUA claimants in the system due to our recent discovery of attempts by scammers using personal information obtained from sources other than L&I to apply for PUA.

AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A PAPER CHECK IN THE MAIL AND DID NOT FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN PENNSYLVANIA SHOULD NOT CASH THE CHECKS. THE CHECKS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO:

Pennsylvania Treasury Department
Comptroller's Office
Attn: Mark Accorsi
113 Finance Building
Harrisburg PA 17120

ANYONE WHO RECEIVES A DIRECT DEPOSIT AND DID NOT FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN PENNSYLVANIA SHOULD NOT USE THE FUNDS. THE FUNDS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO:

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
651 Boas Street, Room 500
Harrisburg, PA 17121

Don't Throw Away Your Stimulus Payment!

Don't throw away your stimulus payment!



CHECK YOUR MAILBOX

The Treasury Department will be sending out prepaid debit cards – called Economic Impact Payment (EIP) cards, probably in a plain envelope.

These cards are issued by Treasury's partner MetaBank and preloaded with government stimulus payments. Be on the lookout in case you thought it was junk mail.

Over four million taxpayers will receive their federal stimulus funds on preloaded Visa cards. You will be able to use them to withdraw cash from in-network ATMs, make direct purchases anywhere that accepts Visa cards, and transfer funds directly into your own bank accounts without being subject to any fees.

You will need to activate the card and it should come with instructions on how to do that. If you have any questions, you can call Meta Bank's customer service at 1-800-240-8100 or visit <https://www.eipcard.com>

Turnpike Update

As Pennsylvania is opening and more people are getting on the road, remember that the PA Turnpike is NOT accepting cash or credit cards until further notice. All tolls are being



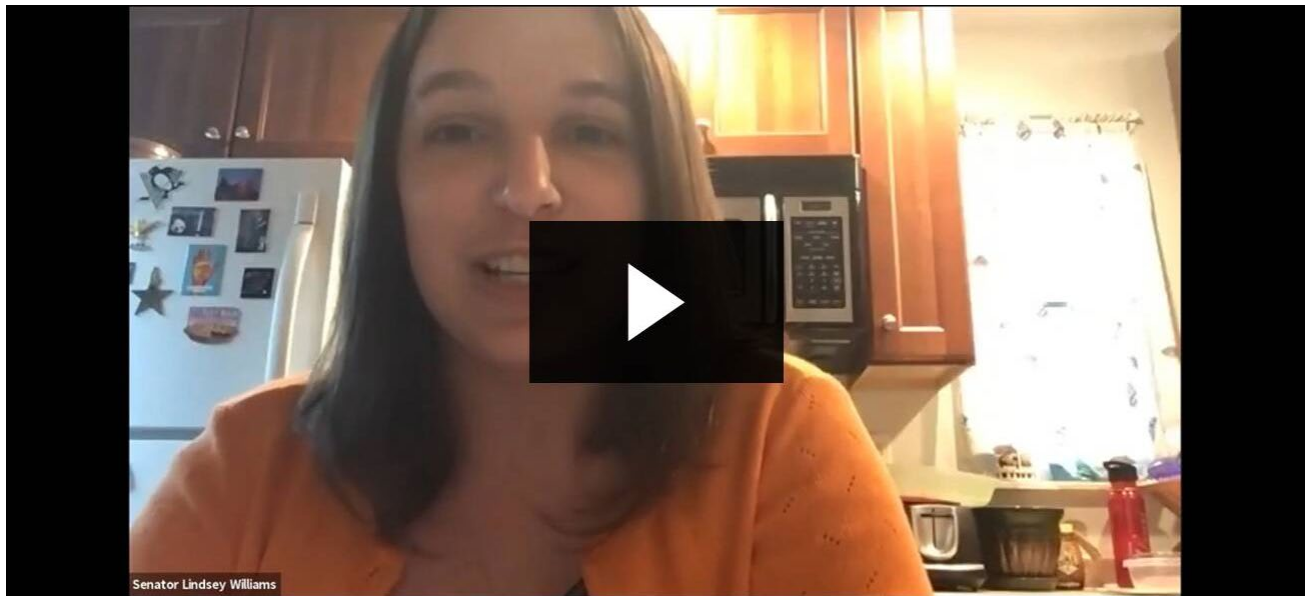
paid by EZ Pass or Toll by Plate. When getting on or off the Turnpike, slow down for safety, but do not stop at any of the Turnpike Toll Plazas until further notice.

Legislative Update

Last week I had the opportunity to participate in a Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on the impacts of COVID-19 on the African American Community. I asked the panelists how we as legislators can make mental health services more available to our students. With mental health services so strongly tied to school life, how do we ensure that students receive the services that they need in instances when they aren't in school? I'm thankful to the Senators who arranged this hearing and for the panelists who participated. You can watch the full hearing [here](#).



In addition, I also hosted the Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities and the Allegheny County DA's Office for Scam Jam, a presentation on how seniors (and everyone) can protect themselves from becoming a victim of financial fraud. You can watch the whole session [here](#).



Three Rivers Art Festival is Going Virtual



The Three Rivers Art Festival is happening virtually this year! The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Announces the Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival will be happening June 5 - 14, 2020! Visit <https://traf.trustarts.org/> to sign up for notifications and information for “The Festival is Virtual, The Art is Real”. The Festival kicks off on June 5, 2020 at 12:00 pm.

This year’s festival will be presented as an all-digital festival. With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has decided to go digital to prioritize the safety of the city and its people. The first-ever 10-day digital Festival will bring as many households as possible to be a part of immersive art experiences along with celebrating together with music, art, creative activity, food, visual art, public art, one of a kind artistic projects and much more.

The microsite, TrustArts.org/TRAF, will feature new innovations aimed at creating a fun Festival experience that can easily be navigated on any device from any location. Featured programming will include the Artist Market, that also features works by Emerging Artists; Digital Stages: Dollar Bank Digital Main Stage and 24/7 Stage; Transverse: Visual Art

Exhibition; Compass Roses: Maps by Artists; Anthropology of Motherhood: Culture of Care; Public Art in the Cultural District; Creative Activities; Film and Food.

You can go to the event's [Facebook](#) page for more information and details about each of the components of the event.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-364-0469 or by email at SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com. My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).



Senator Lindsey Williams

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