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Please do not reply to this email. You can reach my office by emailing [senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com](mailto:senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com).

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



**Save the Date for Upcoming March Events**

**SAVE <sup>THE</sup> DATE**

**MARCH 25 2021**  
**6 PM**

**HOW TO TALK TO LEGISLATORS  
WITH SENATOR LINDSEY WILLIAMS  
AND SPECIAL GUESTS**



## **How to Talk to Legislators**

Interested in how to better communicate your priorities to the government that represents you? Save the date for our How to Talk to Legislators virtual event on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6 pm. Look for details in next week's *District 38 Update*.



## Housing Resources

Concerned landlords, tenants, and homeowners alike will benefit from this virtual event. Save the date for our Housing Resource Session, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 6 pm.

## Legislative Update

### Commonwealth Fraud Protection Act Announcement



On March 2, the 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President of Abraham Lincoln signing the first Federal False Claims Act into law, I [announced](#) that Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill and I will be introducing the Commonwealth Fraud Protection Act (CFPA).

We know that around 40% of fraud is identified by tip—that’s why the CFPA encourages private citizens to come forward as whistleblowers against those filing false or fraudulent claims against the Pennsylvania government in order to protect taxpayer dollars. Protecting these whistleblowers against retaliation and ensuring that they won’t be punished for doing the right thing is one of the most effective ways that we can do to stop fraud, waste, and abuse.

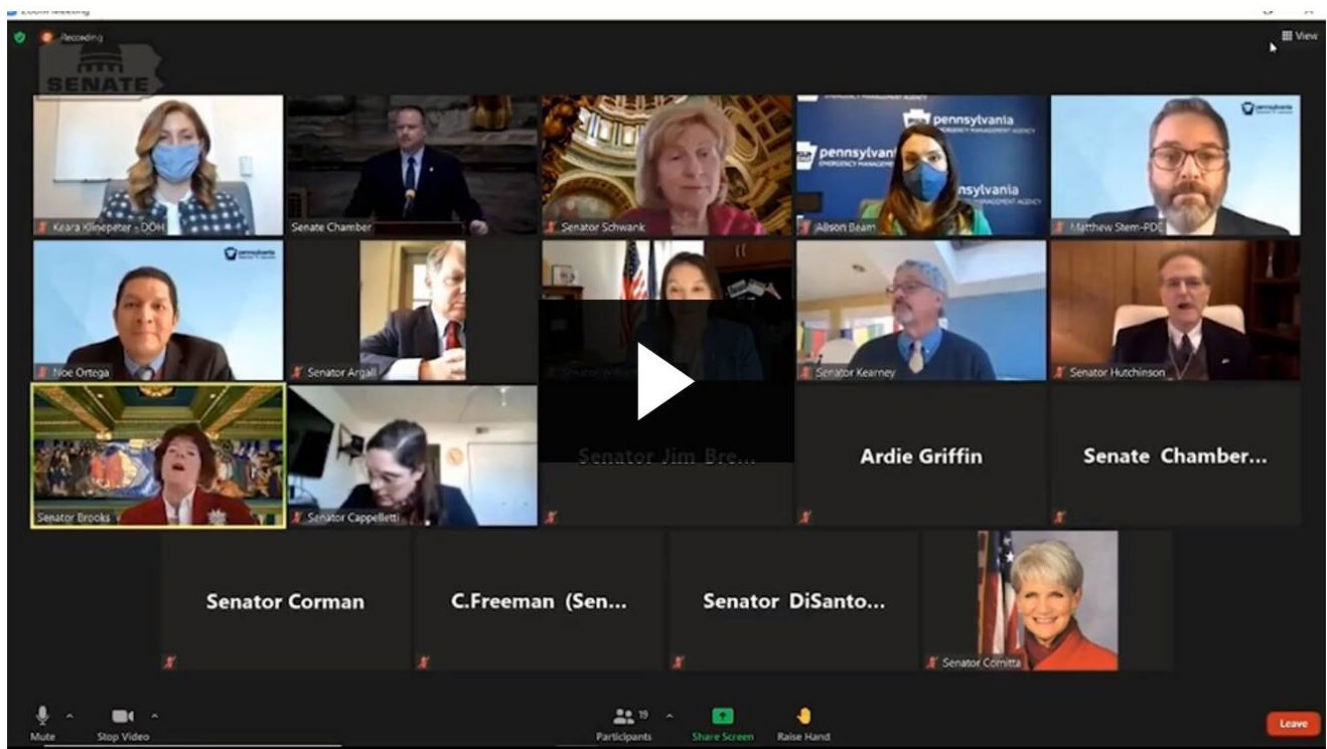
In addition to protecting whistleblowers, the CFPA includes all provisions required for compliance with the Federal False Claims Act, which will allow Pennsylvania to recover an additional 10% of any monies recovered under the law. Since the first passage of the Federal False Claims Act, 31 other states have enacted their own false claims acts, allowing them to recover millions of additional dollars of taxpayer money. Pennsylvanians deserve to share in that recovery.

The full text of the co-sponsorship memo can be found [here](#).

With billions of dollars in state and federal aid coming into Pennsylvania as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, encouraging people to come forward and report fraud, waste, and abuse is crucial to ensuring that every dollar we receive goes toward helping those hit hardest by this pandemic.

## Impacts of COVID-19 on Local Educators, Families, and Students





This week I also co-hosted a Joint Committee Hearing on the impacts of COVID-19 on Education, which included testimony from local administrators, teachers, parents, and students. I cannot thank them enough for sharing their time and experiences with the Education and Health and Human Services Committees. Connecting directly with them about how COVID-19 has affected them over the past year is critical to understanding how we as the legislature can provide the support that our schools need as they continue to educate our children and care for the physical and mental well-being of all of the members of the school community.

You can watch the full video of the hearing [here](#).

# COVID-19 Update



## Vaccine Resource Information

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Saturday [issued an emergency use authorization](#) for J&J's single-dose vaccine. Pennsylvania is expected to get 94,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week, and Governor Wolf and the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force [announced](#) that Pennsylvania will use these single-dose vaccines to vaccinate PreK-12 teachers and other school staff.

My office is continuing to work closely with local pharmacies and providers to ensure that second doses of vaccines are secured and that, as we ramp up production of vaccines, that additional providers receive doses to give out.

### **New!**

**Go to Getmyvaccine.org.** [Getmyvaccine.org](https://getmyvaccine.org) aggregates CVS, Duane Reade, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and Walmart availability for COVID vaccines in your zip code to show you where you can sign up.

**Go to [VaxxMax](#),** an independent website that provides regularly updated **Rite Aid** and **Walgreens** vaccine slots by state. This is a grassroots website created to help streamline the vaccine process in the absence of state-wide systems.

- You must first pre-qualify on Rite Aid's scheduler [here](#) or Walgreens vaccine slot finder [here](#). When you find an available location on VaxxMax in Pennsylvania you can copy/paste on the Rite Aid or Walgreens page for scheduling.

### **Call PA Link for Vaccine Appointment Assistance by Phone:**

- **1-800-753-8827:** PA Link provides assistance to seniors and the disabled and is taking calls from those without access to a computer. Operators will assess the

caller's situation, offer guidance and transfer to a scheduling team. For callers with transportation needs, PA Link will also be able to contact partners with their local Area Agency on Aging to assist with coordinating rides.

### Subscribe to Allegheny Alerts:

- You can customize your subscription to include alerts from Allegheny County's Health Department on vaccine availability. Sign up for Allegheny Alerts [here](#).
- **Note:** Allegheny Alerts now sends notifications for **telephone vaccine appointment** availability through the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania 2-1-1.

### Register for UPMC's COVID-19 Vaccine Waitlist:

- By phone: 1-844-UPMCVAC (844-876-2822), 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., seven days a week.
- Online: [UPMC | COVID Vaccine Form](#). Call or register online for UPMC's vaccine waitlist. You will be contacted when a vaccine is available. Open to the general public.

### Sign up for the PA Department of Health's "Your Turn" Eligibility Tool:

- Online only: [Your-Turn](#). This is not a waitlist, but a state-wide registry that alerts you when you are eligible for the vaccine.

### Visit [Vaccinatepa.org](#):

- University of Pittsburgh student volunteers created this website to help Pennsylvanians get vaccinated as easily as possible. Information on specific locations that have vaccine inventory is available to make scheduling efficient. Visit the website [here](#).

### Consider joining [Getting Pittsburgh Vaccinated - COVID-19 Appointment Tip Page | Facebook](#):

- This facebook group collects information on how to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit the page [here](#).

### Subscribe to Allegheny Alerts:

- You can customize your subscription to include alerts from Allegheny County's Health Department on vaccine availability. Sign up for Allegheny Alerts [here](#).
- **New:** Allegheny Alerts now sends notifications for telephone vaccine appointment availability through the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania 2-1-1.

### Regularly visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Information | COVID-19 | Health Department | Allegheny County](#):

- Here you can schedule an appointment with the County Health Department's Monroeville clinic.

**PA Department of Health, [Where Can I Get Vaccinated?:](#)**

- Use this tool to zoom in on a map of vaccine providers in your area. Click on the location for contact information to schedule an appointment.

**Continually check with local health systems, pharmacies, or federally funded community clinics who are scheduling their own appointments.**

# Pittsburgh Mills Food Distribution

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches AVAC are hosting a food distribution at Pittsburgh Mills (Rear Parking Lot 3 North) on March 9 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Reservation is requested at [pittsburghfoodbank.org/drive-up](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org/drive-up) or by calling 412-460-3663 x655.



# Drive-up Food Distribution

In partnership with Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

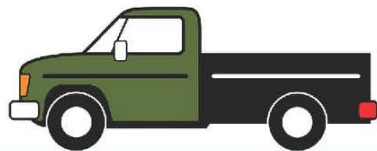
**Date:** Tuesday, March 9th

**Time:** 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.; no cars will be permitted to arrive before 4 p.m.

**Location:** Pittsburgh Mills Galleria - Rear Parking Lot - 3 North  
590 Pittsburgh Mills Blvd, Tarentum, PA 15084

## More Information:

- Please complete a reservation at [pittsburghfoodbank.org/drive-up](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org/drive-up) or by calling 412-460-3663 ext. 655 or <https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/get-help/drive-up/allegheny-valley/>. You will need your name, email, zip code, email address, current weekly income and license plate number for the car picking up food.
- This event will serve 600 cars. There are no exceptions to one reservation getting two shares of food. For one car to get two or three shares of food, the car must have more than one family or household. Each household must complete a separate reservation. The same car and license plate can be used up to three times for the same event.
- For everyone's safety and to maintain social distancing guidelines, individuals must stay in their cars at all times except to use the provided outdoor restroom facilities. Leaving cars to socialize is prohibited.
- After pulling up to distribution area, put the car in park and then unlock the trunk or backseat for food to be loaded. For everyone's safety, volunteers will not be able to load food into the cars until they are in park.
- Please do not get out of the car when food is being loaded into the car.
- Stay alert and follow the guidance of Food Bank staff and police as they direct cars through the distribution area.



If you or someone you know someone needs help with food, visit the Food Bank's website at [pittsburghfoodbank.org](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org) or call 412-460-3663.

Greater Pittsburgh  
**community  
food bank** 

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-

364-0469 (Ross Office), 724-224-2131 (Harrison Office) or by email at [SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com](mailto:SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com). My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).



Senator Lindsey Williams

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