



COVID-19 Timeline

House Republicans Continue to Lead

May 14, 2020

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ACT:

AUTO SALES:

- (March 27) House Republican Leaders urge the governor to allow automobile sales to resume by using telephone communication and online technologies
- (April 7) HB 2388 (car dealerships) is introduced
- (April 20) Wolf announces online vehicle sales process
- (April 21) House passes HB 2388 (car dealerships)

CURBSIDE PICKUP:

- (April 14) HB 2376 (retail stores) is amended to allow for curbside pickup
- (April 20) PLCB curbside pickup at some liquor stores begins

EDUCATION:

- (March 24 and 25) House Republicans amend and pass COVID-19 emergency education provisions
- (April 9) Wolf then closed all the schools for the school year

ELECTIVE SURGERIES:

- (April 21) House Republicans urge Sec. Levine to establish a protocol for hospitals and health care systems to begin performing elective surgical procedures in counties without significant impact
- (April 27) Wolf Administration issues guidance on ambulatory surgical facilities, allows ASFs to begin performing elective surgeries and procedures if the ASF determines it is safe to patients and staff

MEDICAL SUPPLIES:

- (March 25) House passes HB 1232 (to provide medical equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities)
- (March 26) Wolf announces he will spend \$50 M to purchase medical equipment and supplies for healthcare facilities

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- (April 27) House takes first consideration of HB 1439 and HB 1696 (mental health and substance abuse disorder parity)
- (May 4) House unanimously passes HB 1439 and HB 1696
- (May 4) Wolf (DHS) announces mental health initiatives are available

MITIGATION PLAN:

- (April 14) House Republicans pass SB 613
- (April 17) Wolf then unveils one of his many versions of a recovery plan
- (April 20) Wolf vetoes SB 613

OPENING BUSINESSES/CONSTRUCTION:

- (March 27) HB 2400 co-sponsorship memo circulated
- (April 21) House Republicans pass HB 2376 to help retail small businesses, HB 2388 for vehicle dealer activities and HB 2400 for all public and private construction activities (introduced April 3)
- (April 22) Wolf announces his plan of recovery to get back to business with an initial begin date of May 8
- (April 23) Wolf issues guidance as Construction industry prepares to resume work on May 1
- (May 14) House passes HB 2388 (vehicle dealers; lawn and garden centers; cosmetology salons and barber shops; messenger service and agent service activities; animal grooming services; and manufacturing operations), HB

2412 (legal services, residential and commercial real estate related activities), HB 2459 (cosmetology salons and barber shops)

PENNDOT CONSTRUCTION:

- (March 21) House Speaker urges governor to direct PennDOT and Turnpike Commission to rescind suspension of contractors so PennDOT construction projects can resume
- (April 30) Wolf Administration announced PennDOT construction projects will resume beginning May 1

REAL ESTATE:

- (March 30) House Republican leadership urges Wolf to reclassify real estate services as life-sustaining businesses
- (April 16) HB 2412 is introduced (issuing waivers for real estate activities)
- (April 28) House passes HB 2412
- (April 28) Wolf Administration issues guidance for Real Estate Professionals, Appraisers, Notaries, Title Companies and Home Inspectors
- (May 14) House passes HB 2412 (legal services, residential and commercial real estate related activities)

SAFE FOOD SUPPLY:

- (April 29) House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee advanced bills to support the food supply chain (HB 2435)
- (April 29) Wolf highlights comprehensive food security efforts

SENIORS:

- (May 12) HB 2510 (Regional Response Health Collaborative Act) is referred to House Appropriations Committee
- (May 12) Sec. Levine announces new plan to do regular surveillance testing of long-term care facility residents and workers

TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS:

- (April 7) House initially passes SB 327 (COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force)

(April 14) House passes SB 841 (PHC4, county and municipal property tax provisions, local government meetings, education tax credit, school contracts, remote notarization)

(April 15) Wolf announces DOR is offering flexibility, additional time to meet tax obligations, and a pause on standard enforcement actions

(May 14) House concurs on Senate Amendments and pass SB 327

TELEMEDICINE:

(April 21) House concurs to SB 857 (telemedicine authorization)

(April 29) Governor vetoes SB 857 then proceeds to release cross-agency guidance on telehealth, citing its importance as a health care delivery option during COVID-19

(May 8) Wolf signs SB 67 (expands availability of psychological services through telemedicine)

TESTING:

(April 29) Leader Cutler offers amendment to House Bill 2455 that requires the administration to review the quantity of all tests statewide, and propose a timeline, plan and cost to disburse testing kits statewide with priority given to those at a higher risk of contracting the virus. *Democrats block the 2/3 vote requirement to pass an emergency bill*

(April 30) House approves Cutler amendment (testing) to HB 2455 (132-70)

(May 1) Gov. Wolf says Pennsylvania is working on a testing strategy for COVID-19 and testing is a key (as part of the reopening strategy)

(May 4) House passes HB 2455 (201-1)

(May 4) Sec. Levine said Pennsylvania needs widespread testing

(May 12) Sec. Levine announces a new plan to do regular surveillance testing of long-term care facility residents and workers

TRANSPARENCY:

(March 27) House Republican Leaders urge the governor to be transparent and standardize the waiver process, define data-driven goals for the exit strategy, and what the plan is to get our state back on track

(April 7 and 14) Houses passes transparent mitigation plan (SB 613)

- (April 28) House has to call on the governor to be transparent about which statute or regulation he is suspending, modifying, or waiving under the COVID-19 declaration of disaster emergency
- (April 29) HB 2463 is introduced (access to public records). Speaker sends second letter requesting detailed information on COVID-19 cases
- (May 5) House unanimously passes HB 2463
- (May 6) Sec. Levine provides some information on COVID cases to caucus leaders
- (May 8) DCED released information pertaining to the 6,066 approved business exemptions

Pennsylvania Timeline Summary:

March 6	<p>Wolf signs COVID-19 Emergency Disaster Declaration</p> <p>Wolf announces first two confirmed cases of Covid-19 (Delaware and Wayne Counties)</p>
March 7	<p>Wolf announces he is coordinating with legislative leaders and have agreed to work toward a package (https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-announces-two-new-presumptive-positive-covid-19-cases-legislative-action-to-aid-in-swift-response/)</p>
March 11	<p>Wolf provides direction on travel and large gatherings for commonwealth agencies and employees</p>
March 12	<p>Wolf announces mitigation guidance to Montgomery</p>
March 13	<p>Wolf announces all schools will be closed for two weeks and cancels public park programs</p>
March 14	<p>Wolf extends social mitigation efforts to Chester and Bucks</p>
March 15	<p>Wolf orders Restaurants and Bars close Dine-in services in mitigation counties</p>
March 16	<p>Wolf announces statewide mitigation efforts (social distancing measures, restaurants and bars close their dine-in facilities, no visitor policy for corrections, no non-essential travel, child care centers close, adult day care centers, essential state, county and municipal services to be open, supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations remain open, religious leaders to exercise discretion, state centers restrict, and restrict visitors in assisted living and personal care homes)</p>
March 18	<p>DOH reports the state's first virus death (Carmine Fusco, Northampton County)</p>
March 19	<p>Wolf orders a statewide shutdown of all non-essential life sustaining business, effective March 21</p>

	<p>Department of Education cancels all statewide assessment tests for the school year</p> <p>House Speaker requests public guidance and information about the steps taken to ensure health care providers and first responders have access to PPE</p>
March 20	<p>Due to high waiver requests, Wolf Delays order that all non-life sustaining business must close to March 23</p>
March 21	<p>House Speaker urges the governor to direct PennDOT and the Turnpike Commission to rescind recent suspension of work orders to contractors</p>
March 22	<p>Wolf announces a likely postponement of primary elections from April 20 to June 2</p> <p>House Speaker urges the governor to allow residential home construction projects and all other construction projects underway</p>
March 24	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order to Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Erie, Monroe, Montgomery, and Philadelphia</p> <p>House amends SB751 (to include emergency education COVID provisions)</p>
March 25	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order to Lehigh and Northampton</p> <p>House passes COVID-19 UC emergency provisions (HB 68), provide medical equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities (HB 1232), COVID-19 education concerns (SB 751) and changing the primary election date (SB 422)</p>
March 26	<p>Wolf launches new web portal for the procurement of critical medical supplies for PA healthcare systems</p> <p>Wolf announces he will spend \$50M to purchase medical equipment and supplies for hospitals, nursing homes, and emergency workers</p>
March 27	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order to Berks, Butler, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Luzerne, Pike, Wayne, Westmoreland, and York</p> <p>Wolf signs COVID related bills: HB 1232 (Act 10)(\$50M for medical equipment and supplies to hospitals), SB 751 (Act13) (waives school session requirements), SB 422 (Act 12) (primary election), and HB 68 (Act 9) (UC)</p> <p>House Republican Leaders urge the governor to be transparent and standardize the waiver process, define data-driven goals for the exit strategy, and what the plan is to get our state back on track</p> <p>House Republican Leaders urge the governor to allow automobile sales to resume by using telephone communication and online technologies</p> <p>Co-sponsorship memo for HB 2400 (construction) is circulated</p>
March 28	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order to Beaver, Centre and Washington</p>

March 30	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order for Carbon, Cumberland, Dauphin and Schuylkill</p> <p>House Republican Leaders urge the governor to reclassify real estate services as life-sustaining businesses</p>
March 31	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order for Cameron, Crawford, Forest, Franklin, Lawrence, Lebanon, Somerset</p>
April 1	<p>Wolf extends the stay-at-home order across the state</p>
April 3	<p>Wolf suggests the wearing of masks</p> <p>Speaker introduces HB 2400 (construction activities)</p>
April 5	<p>Sec. Levine signs order providing direction for maintaining and cleaning buildings for businesses authorized to maintain in-person operations</p>
April 7	<p>House Amends SB 613 to include language for the governor to implement and develop a mitigation plan</p>
April 9	<p>Wolf orders all schools closed for the year</p>
April 10	<p>Wolf establishes a temporary program to reprieve sentences of incarceration</p>
April 13	<p>Wolf announces multi-state council to get people back to work</p>
April 14	<p>House passes SB 613 (mitigation plan), SB 841 (PHC4, county and municipal property tax provisions, local government meetings, education tax credit, school contracts, remote notarization) and HB 1189 (DOH demographics report, disability benefits, PennDOT renewals, volunteer emergency responders employer tax credit)</p> <p>House amends HB 2376 (retail stores) to include curbside pickup</p>
April 15	<p>Sec. Levine signs order providing worker safety measures for critical workers</p> <p>Wolf announces DOR is offering flexibility, additional time to meet tax obligations, and a pause on standard enforcement actions</p>
April 17	<p>Wolf unveils plan for Recovery</p> <p>House Speaker requests more detailed information from Sec. Levine with respect to each person who passed away caused by COVID-19</p>
April 18	<p>Wolf announces \$16 million in funding for Pennsylvania food banks</p>
April 20	<p>Wolf extends stay-at-home order until May 8</p> <p>Wolf signs SB 841 into law (Act 15) (property tax deadlines, remote public meetings, and notarization)</p> <p>Wolf vetoes SB613 (mitigation plan)</p>

	<p>Wolf announces Online Vehicle Sales, restart of construction projects (May 8), and curbside pickup of wine and spirits at select PA Liquor Control Board locations</p> <p>Houses passes HB 1076 (Property Tax Rent Rebate/Senior Tax Reduction Incentive Volunteer Exchange Program) and SB 327 (COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force)</p> <p>House Amends HB 1822 (to include COVID-19 employee protection measures)</p> <p>HB 2423 is introduced (allowing accredited zoos to reopen)</p>
April 21	<p>Houses passes HB 1822, HB 2376 (retail stores), HB 2388 (car dealerships), and HB 2400 (construction activities)</p> <p>Houses concurs to SB 857 (telemedicine authorization)</p> <p>House Republicans urge Sec. Levine to establish a protocol for hospitals and health care systems to begin performing elective surgical procedures in counties without significant impact</p>
April 22	<p>Wolf presents his plan for reopening with a target date of May 8</p>
April 23	<p>Wolf issues guidance as Construction industry prepares to resume work on May 1</p>
April 25	<p>Wolf elaborated on the DOH metrics on data driven reopening standards</p>
April 27	<p>Wolf announces May 1 reopening of limited outdoor recreational activities</p> <p>Wolf Administration issues guidance on ambulatory surgical facilities, allows ASFs to begin performing elective surgeries and procedures if the ASF determines it is safe to patients and staff</p> <p>Houses takes first consideration of HB 1439 and HB 1696 (mental health and substance abuse legislation)</p>
April 28	<p>Wolf Administration (DOS) issues guidance for Real Estate Professionals, Appraisers, Notaries, Title Companies and Home Inspectors</p> <p>Wolf urges Congress to take action to ensure access to SNAP</p> <p>Houses passes HB 2392 (IFO assessment and CARES funding), HB 2412 (real estate services), HB 2413 (assistance for volunteer service organizations), HB 2415 (notification requirements on the Governor), HB 2418 (debt review by Treasury) and HB 2419 (establishes the COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force)</p>
April 29	<p>Wolf Administration highlights comprehensive food security efforts</p> <p>Wolf vetoes SB 857 (telemedicine authorization)</p>

	<p>Wolf issues cross-agency guidance on telehealth, citing its importance as a health care delivery option during COVID-19</p> <p>HB 2463 is introduced (access to public records)</p> <p>House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee advanced bills to support the food supply chain (HB 2435) and allow lawn and garden equipment and supply stores to reopen (HB 2429) and pet groomers (HB 2436)</p> <p>House passes HB 327 (mixed drinks for off-premise consumption) and HB 2370 (notaries to notarize electronically)</p> <p>Leader Cutler offers amendment to House Bill 2455 (antivirus testing) that requires the administration to review the quantity of all tests statewide, and propose a timeline, plan and cost to disburse testing kits statewide with priority given to those at a higher risk of contracting the virus. <i>Democrats block the 2/3 vote to pass an emergency bill</i></p> <p>Speaker sends second letter to Sec. Levine asking for specific detailed information on COVID cases</p>
April 30	<p>The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced PennDOT highway and bridge construction projects will resume beginning May 1</p> <p>House approves Cutler amendment (A05363 (testing) to HB 2455 (132-70)</p> <p>House Republicans unanimously vote to pass HB 2429 (lawn and garden centers) and HB 2435 (food establishment pandemic disease grant program)</p>
May 1	<p>Wolf announces the reopening of 24 counties beginning May 8 (Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, Venango, and Warren)</p>
May 4	<p>Wolf Administration (DHS) issues press release about mental health is available and that the COVID-19 emergency is a difficult time for everyone</p> <p>Wolf provides guidance that detail procedures business must follow to operate in counties in the yellow phase</p> <p>Sec. Levine said testing will be key to Pennsylvania to be prepared for the coronavirus in the fall (source: https://www.timesonline.com/news/20200504/levine-pennsylvania-needs-better-testing-to-prevent-outbreaks-of-covid-19-in-fall)</p> <p>House Republicans unanimously HB 1439 (requiring insurers to attest they are in compliance with the Federal Mental Health Parity & Addiction Equity Act) and HB 1696 (requires insurers to conduct document analyses detailing mental health parity and substance abuse disorder as required by federal law)</p>

	<p>House passes HB 2455 (requiring the Governor to provide an expanding testing plan and reports, 201-1)</p> <p>37 County Commissioners and state lawmakers representing nine counties surrounding Allegheny County try to convince Wolf to allow them to reopen (https://triblive.com/news/pennsylvania/counties-in-pittsburgh-region-plead-with-gov-wolf-to-reopen-soon/?utm_source=second-street&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TribLIVE++Morning+Headlines)</p>
May 5	<p>The Game Commission announced that on Friday it will reopen shooting ranges on state game lands in counties upgraded to yellow phase</p> <p>House passes HB 2463 (access to public records) and HB 2433 (messenger services)</p>
May 6	<p>Wolf announces the creation of the Commonwealth Civilian Coronavirus Corps, a public service initiative to support efforts in the fall to increase testing and contact tracing and provide new jobs in public health</p> <p>Governor announces free N95 decontamination system for healthcare facilities, first responders and other organizations</p> <p>Governor issues Executive Order granting liability immunity to health care practitioners for good faith actions taken in response to the pandemic</p> <p>Sec. Levine provided some detailed information on COVID cases to caucus leaders</p>
May 7	<p>Wolf extends his March 19 “Stay-at-home” order until June 4</p> <p>Wolf Administration (Office of Advocacy and Reform) launch a volunteer think tank of 25 experts to develop a plan to make a trauma-informed state</p> <p>PUA system goes live</p> <p>Wolf announces protections from evictions and foreclosures through July 10</p> <p>Perry County leaders send a letter to Wolf asking him to reconsider his grouping of Perry County</p>
May 8	<p>Wolf announces 13 counties will move to yellow phase on May 15 (Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland)</p> <p>Wolf Administration finally releases information regarding the 6,066 approved business exemptions</p> <p>DHS launches an Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) to provide one-time payments to low-income families</p> <p>Wolf Administration issues guidance on COVID-19 for Veterinary Practices</p>

	<p>Wolf signs SB 67 (psychological services through telemedicine) into law</p> <p>Lebanon County considering allowing businesses to reopen and will move the county from the ‘red’ phase to ‘yellow’</p> <p>Dauphin County considering also moving to yellow phased reopening on May 15</p> <p>York County delegation sent a letter to wolf requesting reopening</p> <p>Lawmakers demand the Governor re-evaluate Mifflin and Juniata for reopening</p> <p>Cumberland County Sheriff Anderson says he will not enforce business closures nor enforcing any order that violates Constitutional Rights</p> <p>Beaver County officials said the entire county should not be shut down due to a single facility. DA said he would not prosecute business shutdown violators</p>
<p>May 9</p>	<p>Wolf Administration revises guidance on COVID-19 for Health Care Providers</p> <p>Wolf Administration revises guidance on COVID-19 for Dental Health Care Personnel</p> <p>Four Western PA counties (Washington, Butler, Greene and Fayette), four lawmakers and several businesses have sued the governor and health officials over shutdown orders and reopening plans</p> <p>Franklin County announces it will move out of red phase May 15</p> <p>Lancaster County leaders ask Wolf to move Lancaster out of the red designation and into yellow, indicate they will move forward with a plan</p> <p>Schuylkill County leaders send a letter to Wolf of their intention to move to the yellow phase and reopen businesses on May 15</p>
<p>May 10</p>	<p>Berks County announces they will develop a plan to reopen business in the county</p> <p>Bucks county officials request a clear direction on a date for reopening before June 2 primary election</p>
<p>May 11</p>	<p>Wolf calls the resistance to stay-at-home rules “cowardly.” Chastises counties. Indicates counties that defy orders will not be eligible for federal stimulus discretionary funds. Businesses could lose their business liability insurance, and restaurants could receive a citation, which could lead to the loss of liquor licenses (source: https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2020-05-11/pennsylvania-gov-tom-wolf-threatens-counties-businesses-that-defy-coronavirus-restrictions)</p> <p>Insurance Commissioner said businesses that defy governor’s orders may lose insurance coverage since many policies contain provisions that exclude coverage for those engaged in “illegal acts or conduct”</p>

	<p>Cumberland County DA announces only ‘most egregious’ violations of Wolf’s orders will be prosecuted</p>
May 12	<p>Wolf announces we must stay the course and follow the law</p> <p>PennDOT announces they will use existing photos on file for driver’s license and identification card renewals and the expiration dates on vehicle registrations, vehicle inspections and other products through June 30, 2020</p> <p>Sec. Levine announces a new plan to do regular surveillance testing of long-term care facility residents and workers</p> <p>DOH distributes investigational antiviral medication, remdesivir, to treat patients in the hospital with COVID-19 (51 hospitals to get first shipment)</p> <p>HB 2510 (Regional Response Health Collaborative Act) is referred to House Appropriations Committee</p> <p>Senate Republicans file suit seeking to enforce subpoenas issued by a Senate Committee for information relating to the waiver process</p>
May 13	<p>Gov. Wolf announces inclusion of gender identity, sexual orientation or expression in COVID-19 data collection</p> <p>PLCB announces 155 more stores in yellow phased counties will resume limited in-store public access</p> <p>Wolf announces PA receives \$523 million in one-time federal emergency funds to help schools respond to COVID-19</p> <p>Beaver, Lancaster and Lebanon Counties still vowing to reopen Friday without state approval</p>
May 14	<p>Wolf Administration launches LIHEAP Recovery Crisis Program for those affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>House passes HB 2388 (vehicle dealers; lawn and garden centers; cosmetology salons and barber shops; messenger service and agent service activities; animal grooming services; and manufacturing operations), HB 2412 (legal services, residential and commercial real estate related activities), HB 2459 (cosmetology salons and barber shops) and SB 327 (Emergency Statutory and Regulatory Suspensions and Waivers; Debt Cost Reduction Review; Cost and Recovery Task Force; Emergency Regulatory Tolling; and County Emergency Mitigation Plan for Businesses).</p> <p>Franklin and Dauphin County no longer advising to move out of the red phase May 15</p>

(Source of Governor’s information: Governor’s Press Releases)

- Governor’s action

- House Republican action
- Lawmakers/Counties/Business action

National Stage Brief Summary:

December 31, 2019	Pneumonia cases are detected in Wuhan, China and are reported to WHO. Cases occur between December 12 and 29
January 7, 2020	Virus is identified as a novel coronavirus, initially named 2019-nCoV by WHO
January 21	First case confirmed in the United States (Washington state)
February 11	WHO names the coronavirus Covid-19
February 26	CDC announces a California patient treated for the virus is the first US case of unknown origin Vice President Pence is placed in charge of the US government response
February 29	First US death (Washington)
March 3	Federal Reserve slashes interest rates
March 11	WHO declares the virus a pandemic
March 13	Trump declares a national emergency
March 18	Trump sign the Families First Coronavirus Response Act into law Non-essential travel between US and Canada is suspended
March 27	Trump signs the stimulus package into law
March 29	Trump extends social distancing guidelines (to April 30)
April 2	6.6 million workers file for their first week of unemployment for the week ending March 28—the highest number in claims history
April 3	Trump Administration recommends all Americans wear face coverings
April 8	China reopens Wuhan (76-day lockdown)

(Source: <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/updated-timeline-coronavirus>)