

EJ UPDATE

Your Environment, Your Voice



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

Greetings, Environmental Justice partners!

We hope you are staying safe and well. The Office of Environmental Justice team is writing to send you important updates and resources on COVID-19 from the Department of Environmental Protection and others that may help during these challenging times.

Commonwealth Updates and Resources:

Governor's Office

On April 15, [Governor Wolf signed an order](#) directing protections for critical workers who are employed at businesses that are authorized to maintain in-person operations during the COVID-19 disaster emergency. Among other protocols, the order requires all customers to wear masks while on premises, and deny entry to individuals not wearing masks, unless the business is providing medication, medical supplies, or food. The mask should not be a surgical mask or N95 respirator because these are needed for medical personnel and first responders. Instead, they are encouraged to wear homemade fabric or cloth masks. The [Commonwealth of PA](#) is maintaining a very useful webpage that contains updates and resources on COVID-19. The webpage provides instruction on how to create a homemade mask.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all DEP offices are physically closed and will remain closed at least until May 8, 2020. To report environmental emergencies, please call 1-800-541-2050. DEP staff that are capable of teleworking, including Office of Environmental Justice staff, are continuing to telework and fulfill the mission of the department. For the latest updates on the status of other DEP work functions, see our [COVID-19 update page](#). DEP is posting Approved Requests for suspensions of regulations or permit conditions in the Requesting Suspension of Regulation or Permit Condition pull-down tab on the COVID-19 information page. For general inquiries, please continue to [contact DEP](#). Please contact the [Office of Environmental Justice](#) with any environmental justice inquiries.

Department of Health (DOH)

DOH has an excellent [COVID-19 update webpage](#). Among other useful information, the webpage describes COVID-19 symptoms, ways to minimize spread, and how to protect yourself.

COVID-19 Resources:

The [PA Post](#) has developed a partial list of organizations raising money for, and delivering aid to businesses and individuals affected by the virus outbreak. The goal is to coordinate financial support across the communities these organizations serve.

The [United Way of Pennsylvania](#) has a webpage of resources and information related to COVID-19 for Pennsylvanians.

The [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) has developed a data tool that provides state-level information on COVID-19 cases, deaths, social distancing measures, health policy actions, and other data.

The [City of Philadelphia](#) has been posting resources and guides in a variety of languages that are applicable to many parts of Pennsylvania. Particularly of interest are suggestions on "[Staying connected during COVID-19](#)" which includes information on low-cost internet and wi-fi resources.

The [Partnership for Better Health](#) is offering Rapid Response Emergency Grants to enable organizations serving residents in Central and Western Cumberland County, Perry County, Northern Adams County and the Greater Shippensburg Area facing challenges as result of COVID-19.

Educational Resources:

The [Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Educators \(PAEE\) teaching ee at home](#) is a webpage providing online options and interactive environmental educational experiences for the students to do, by themselves or with their parents.

Please [contact us](#) to provide additional resources that you would like us to share with EJ partners.

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