



ALLEGHENY COUNTY
COUNCIL

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VISIT US AT:

<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council/index.aspx>
<https://www.facebook.com/Allegheny-County-Council>
https://twitter.com/AllCnty_Council

UPCOMING REGULAR
MEETINGS:

Tuesday, August 18
Tuesday, August 25
Tuesday, September 8

*To learn more, see next page.

A Message from the
Members of

Allegheny County Council

As COVID-19 continues to spread across our nation and world, we, your representatives on Allegheny County Council, hope that you are keeping safe and doing all you can to keep others safe. These are challenging times for everyone and we understand that this pandemic has affected us all in various ways such as, loss of a job, loss of schooling, and loss of lives.

During this taxing time, Allegheny County Council remains committed to serving the residents of Allegheny County. We are committed to keeping you informed and engaged as much as possible during this pandemic through various platforms, including this newsletter. The current crisis presents not only a host of challenges, but forces Council to rethink how we provide fundamental services and overall commitment to the residents of Allegheny County. To learn more and to stay safe, please review the websites that are linked below. Together we can and will get through this.

Allegheny County Department of Health

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx>

Pennsylvania Department of Health

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

United States Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/>



“Together we can
and will get
through this”

-President Patrick Catena

Allegheny County
Council



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL IS CONDUCTING
MEETINGS – ENCOURAGES PUBLIC COMMENT
IN WRITING**

Allegheny County Council President, Pat Catena, and all Members, would like to remind the public that the Regular Meetings of County Council have and will continue to be held as scheduled; however, they discourage the public from attending in person. Rather, they encourage the public to watch the live-stream and to submit public comment online in order to adhere to the Allegheny County Department of Health guidelines limiting total capacity of the Gold Room to 25.

TO WATCH THE LIVE-STREAM, PLEASE VISIT:

http://allegheny.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=4

**TO SUBMIT COMMENTS THROUGH THE ONLINE SIGN-UP
FORM, PLEASE VISIT:**

<http://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/CouncilReqComm.asp>



Regular Council meetings are held twice monthly on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm, unless otherwise indicated.

Council meeting agendas are posted online at:

<https://alleghenycounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

The next three Regular Meetings of Council are:

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 5:00pm

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 5:00pm

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 5:00pm

Allegheny County Health

Department's COVID-19 Response.



On July 17, Health Department Director Dr. Debra Bogen announced a new order to stem the spread of the coronavirus in Allegheny County, following review of the [state's orders from July 15, 2020](#). The new order took effect at 5:00 PM on Friday, July 17, 2020. Read the [full order here](#). Review the state's order at this link: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Targeted-Mitigation-FAQ.aspx>

MY MASK PROTECTS YOU,
YOUR MASK PROTECTS ME.



The Health Department is the lead agency providing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To receive COVID-19 updates from the Allegheny County Health Department, subscribe to the following: [Allegheny Alerts](#) (free subscription required) and the department's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

COVID-19 Field Response Team (FRT)

A 10-member COVID Field Response Team (COVID-FRT) began visiting bars and restaurants in the county on July 23, 2020 to educate on current health orders, answer questions and determine compliance with state and county business safety precaution orders. For more information on the FRT, visit: [https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-Field-Response-Team-\(FRT\).aspx](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-Field-Response-Team-(FRT).aspx)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING COVID-19

The following link answers frequently asked questions received by the Health Department concerning COVID-19.

[https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Health_Department/Resources/COVID-19/Docs/0720%20FAQs%20on%20July%2017%20Health%20Order%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Health_Department/Resources/COVID-19/Docs/0720%20FAQs%20on%20July%2017%20Health%20Order%20(002).pdf)



COVID-19 HOTLINE 888-856-2774

Language services available. Residents can call to speak with a representative 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



ALLEGHENY ALERTS ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/ALERTS

Receive updates on COVID-19 directly from the Health Department. Visit [Alleghenycounty.us/alerts](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts) and select COVID-19 updates.



COUNTY WEBSITE ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/CORONAVIRUS

Visit our website for updated information on COVID-19 including a map of confirmed cases in our region. bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19



TWITTER @HEALTHALLEGHENY

Follow the Allegheny County Health Department on Twitter for updates on COVID-19.

Allegheny County Parks COVID-19 Response



Parks & Trails

Engaging in outdoor activities, such as walking, hiking, biking or running, is permitted under Governor Wolf's green reopening phase, and outdoor areas and restrooms in all nine county parks are open. However, we strongly encourage park users to observe these guidelines:

- Stay at home if you are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms
- Practice physical distancing by staying at least six feet apart
- When passing on trails, maintain distance as much as possible
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a sleeve or elbow
- Do not touch your face
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently

To comply with Pennsylvania's Universal Face Covering Order, masks **must be worn** outdoors when park-goers are unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet from individuals who are not members of their household, as well as in any indoor location.

If park-goers choose to use restrooms or other outdoor items with touch surfaces, proper handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizer is strongly encouraged before and afterward.

Our nine parks encompass more than 12,000 acres and have more than 180 miles of multi-use trails. There is plenty of space to spread out and practice physical distancing.

North Park and South Park golf courses are open with daily operating hours of 6:00 am-dusk. Regular season fees are in effect. Operational changes are also in effect at both courses, and golfers are asked to observe COVID-19 guidelines to help contain the spread of the virus. For details, including snack bar hours and other information, visit our [golf courses page](#).

Golf

Facility Rental

By order of the Allegheny County Health Department, outdoor events and gatherings are limited to **no more than 50 people** and indoor gathering are limited to **no more than 25 people**. **Renters must also comply with Pennsylvania's Universal Face Covering Order.** Park users who wish to cancel facility rentals during this period will receive full refunds. Customers should complete our [COVID-19 Refund Form](#) and email it to webmaster.parks@alleghenycounty.us or fax it to 412-350-2682.

Field Rental

By order of the Allegheny County Health Department, outdoor events and gatherings are limited to **no more than 50 people**. **Renters must also comply with Pennsylvania's Universal Face Covering Order.** Park users who wish to cancel field rentals during this period will receive full refunds. Customers should complete our [COVID-19 Refund Form](#) and email it to webmaster.parks@alleghenycounty.us or fax it to 412-350-2682.

Swimming Pools

Allegheny County pools will remain closed this summer due to a lack of lifeguards. The parks department needs at least 150 certified lifeguards to open and operate its four pools in compliance with mandated safety regulations. Despite recruitment efforts before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a concerted campaign once approval was given for pools to open in the yellow and green phases, only 24 individuals submitted applications to become county lifeguards.



Rental assistance for people struggling due to COVID-19

Allegheny County is partnering with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to jointly fund the CARES Rent Relief Program. CARES helps people experiencing job loss or loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis.

The Allegheny County CARES Rental Relief Program is accepting applications July 6, 2020-September 30, 2020.

[Learn more](#)



Crisis and support hotlines, helplines and warmlines

Trained professionals and peers are available to talk with you about difficulties you are having related to any crisis in your life. Click to [Learn more](#)

For more additional information about DHS Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic such as:

- Food Assistance
- Unemployment Assistance
- Housing and Homelessness Assistance
- Utilities Assistance
- Information for Seniors
- Keeping Vulnerable Populations Safe
- Drug and Alcohol Resources

Utilize the following link:

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/DHS-Services.aspx>

**CONNECTING PEOPLE
IN NEED WITH PROGRAMS
THAT HELP.**

**For any general
inquiries about DHS
Services, call
412-350-5701**

LYME DISEASE is the most common vector-borne illness in the United States. In recent years, Pennsylvania has led the nation in the number of reported Lyme disease cases. This important public health challenge affects all of Pennsylvania, including Allegheny County

Lyme disease and other tick born illnesses can be severe if not treated properly.

Generally, a tick must be attached for 24 to 36 hours or more before the bacteria that causes Lyme disease is transmitted. Proactive measures and tips to keep you protected from tick bites and Lyme disease include:

- Use a repellent that contains at least 20% DEET
- Wear light-colored clothing
- Walk in the center of trails and avoid wooded areas or areas with brush, high grass and leaves
- Conduct full-body tick checks on yourself, children and your pets after spending time outside
- Take a bath or shower within two hours of coming inside

Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. Early detection is key. Residents should watch for symptoms and notify their primary care provider immediately if they know they've been bitten by a tick or have the following symptoms:

- A red bulls-eye shape rash
- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle and joint aches
- Swollen lymph nodes

Early symptoms of Lyme disease may appear from as few as two days or as many as 30 days after exposure. Later stage symptoms like arthritis, heart and neurological issues may appear months later. Reports have ranged from people showing few to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying.

For more information on Lyme disease and ACHD's surveillance efforts, visit: <http://bit.ly/ACHDLyme>.

Dangers of Tick Bites

WARNING



Tick Season is here!



Open Burning in Allegheny County: The Do's and Don'ts

Wood smoke contains air toxics and contributes to high levels of fine particulate pollution in Allegheny County. It can aggravate symptoms of asthma and other health issues. Because they impact our health, outdoor fires are regulated in Allegheny County. This applies to burning of any kind, even recreational fires in a fireplace or fire pit.

Outdoor fires are regulated in Allegheny County because they impact our health. Below is some information on how to safely burn a fire.



What's in Smoke?

Smoke from a fire releases a lot of harmful chemicals into the air, such as Benzene, Toluene, Carbon Monoxide, Formaldehyde, Methyl Chloride, Methane and Naphthalene. It also releases fine particles called particulate pollution. These particles are absorbed by the body, increasing risks of lung and heart disease, even causing asthma attacks and acute bronchitis. This is especially dangerous for children. Some people have a problem with the smell of wood smoke, but that odor is also a warning sign. If you can smell wood smoke, odds are you're breathing in many of these harmful compounds.

Seasoned wood, has been cut, split and protected from water for at least six months. Only 20% of its total weight is from water, so it's easy to start, produces more heat and light, and burns cleaner. **Never** use unseasoned wood because it creates a slow-burning, less hot, very smoky fire that produces pollution.

Use Seasoned Wood

Be a Good Neighbor

Comply with outdoor burning regulations. Make sure your fire is no bigger than 3' wide x 3' long x 2' high and is 15 feet or more from your home or building. Remember, the smaller the fire, the better. Open burning is prohibited within Allegheny County on Air Quality Action Days—days when air pollution is expected to be higher than normal. And please remember, even the cleanest fire still produces harmful smoke and air toxics. An outdoor fire that meets the ACHD size and placement rules can still be harmful. The only way to completely avoid the harmful effects of wood smoke is simply not to burn.

For more information on the county's Open Burning Regulations, visit <https://j.mp/2wFVzEU>.



PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY



Port Authority of Allegheny County is seeking public input about the future of transit in our region as part of NEXTransit, the agency's recently-launched long-range planning effort.

NEXTransit will help inform where service should go, who it should serve, when it should operate and what projects should be given priority over the next 25 years.

The community is invited to participate in upcoming online meetings:

- Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Meetings can be accessed by visiting <https://nextransit.network/series1>. Participants may also call in by dialing 855-925-2801 and using meeting code 8676.

Residents from communities across Allegheny County are encouraged to attend. Those unable to attend can still participate via in-person community visits and phone-based surveys to that will be conducted later this summer.

"NEXTransit will give us the opportunity to inspire, innovate and implement ideas that promote a robust transit network that is accessible, equitable, reliable, flexible, comprehensive and safe," said Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman. "Whether it's an extension of a busway, adding more trips to an underserved community, or placing greater importance on alternative-fuel vehicles, we want to hear what riders and non-riders want from their public transit system."

NEXTransit will help Port Authority prepare for future growth by identifying transit investments that integrate with regional plans and goals and by providing a clear roadmap on where to focus the agency's energy and resources.

The input Port Authority receives will serve as a blueprint to meet the community's vision for what public transportation in our region needs to accomplish in the coming decades to ensure residents have access to jobs, housing, healthcare, education and other services.

Port Authority launched NEXTransit on June 1. This community-based plan is being developed through a robust outreach process and conducted in collaboration with partner agencies in addition to public input.

Port Authority encourages community members, businesses and other stakeholders to learn more about NEXTransit and sign up for email alerts at <https://nextransit.network/>.

Office of the Allegheny County Council



Patrick J. Catena, President
District 4



Bob Macey, Vice President
District 9



Bethany Hallam
At-Large



Samuel DeMarco III
At-Large



Tom Baker
District 1



Cindy Kirk
District 2



Anita Prizio
District 3



Tom Duerr
District 5



John Palmiere
District 6



Nick Futules
District 7



Paul Zavarella
District 8



DeWitt Walton
District 10



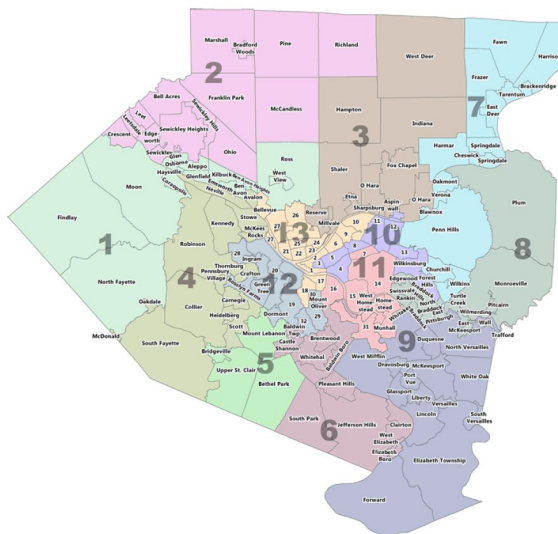
Paul Klein
District 11



Bob Palmosina
District 12



Olivia Bennett
District 13



Information Center

*****To contact a Member of Council, please call:
412-350-6490***

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH LATEST COUNCIL NEWS?

Sign up for the Council Connection here:

http://
www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council/contact/council-newsletter.aspx



**Allegheny County
Information Line
412-350-4636**

Speak at Council Meetings

Allegheny County citizens may address Council at Regular meetings.

Visit Council's Website at:

<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council/request-to-comment.aspx>

*Request must be received no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

To Find an Electronic Copy of County Council Verbatim Regular Minutes go to:

http://
www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council/verbatim-regular-meeting-minutes.aspx

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH LATEST COUNTY NEWS?

Sign up for Allegheny Alerts, a **FREE** service that sends you information you want the want it.

You can be contacted with specific alerts via email, text, voice, work, home, mobile—any or all of them.

**For more information go to:
alleghenycounty.us/Alerts**



Questions or Comments?

We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at
412-350-6490 or via email at
CouncilNews@AlleghenyCounty.us

TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Child Abuse: 412-473-2000

Elderly Abuse: 412-350-6905

Domestic Abuse : 412-350-4441



**Allegheny
County Parks
Information
Line:
412-350-7275**

Department of Human Service DHS Director's

Action Line (DAL)

Specialists addressing your concerns & answering your questions about support and services provided through Allegheny County Health Department of Human Services.

1-800-862-6783