



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 23, 2020

Dear Pennsylvania Local Elected Officials:

First and foremost, thank you for your assistance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These last nine months have not been easy. We have seen our Commonwealth, our country, and the world tested to an extent previously thought impossible.

Yet, together, we have persevered in the face of a global crisis. We have acted swiftly, efficiently, and collaboratively to protect our citizens from the greatest public health threat of our lifetime. Now, we are once again facing a resurgence of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations. In fact, new modeling from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation shows Pennsylvania reaching as high as 22,000 new cases of COVID-19 per day by the middle of December, while also reaching a critical level of hospital capacity and ICU bed availability. This is a threat to our citizens, our hospitals, and our communities. We must act together once again to prevent catastrophic damage to Pennsylvania.

Today, Secretary Levine and I issued orders creating new targeted mitigation efforts. These efforts are not meant to be punitive but are aimed at keeping the largest number of Pennsylvanians as safe as possible while reducing harm and job losses to sectors across the economy. Our aim, once again, is to get all businesses and individuals in Pennsylvania back to work and back together as quickly and as safely as possible.

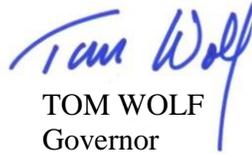
While most Pennsylvanians and businesses are following public health guidance and working alongside us to keep our citizens safe, we continue to hear reports of individuals and businesses not adhering to these lawful mitigation orders. This puts us in danger and has the added effect of only extending this difficult period and causing more cases and hospitalizations. Again: following these orders is not optional. Endangering the health of our fellow citizens is unacceptable.

That is why I am again writing to ask for your help. As part of our efforts, we announced an increase in enforcement actions aimed at ensuring that all Pennsylvanians are following our mitigation efforts and are doing their part to keep our communities safe. All enforcement agencies under my jurisdiction will be stepping up monitoring and penalties to make certain that we are reaching the maximum compliance level possible. As we step up our enforcement efforts, we are asking that you do as well.

As local leaders, I urge you to join me in ensuring mitigation efforts are being followed so we can lift them as soon as possible. I need every one of you to work with your local law enforcement officers, local health departments, public safety departments, and inspection authorities, among others to ensure that they are using every tool available to them to enforce these lawful orders that are aimed at keeping all Pennsylvanians safe and healthy. We absolutely must mitigate the spread of this virus so that we can safely and quickly end this period of uncertainty. Unfortunately, we can no longer simply hope that our citizens will follow public health guidance. We must now act to ensure that they are.

Again, I want to thank you all for your partnership and cooperation throughout this difficult period. No group of leaders in living memory has faced such a challenging and demanding test. But together, I am confident that we can meet that challenge and act to keep our citizens and our communities safe while keeping our economy moving forward. Your assistance is critical to the health of our Commonwealth. Thank you for your cooperation and leadership.

Sincerely,



TOM WOLF  
Governor