

Northampton County Reinstates Facemask Policy

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure announces that, due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the area, Northampton County will again require facemasks at all county buildings. Beginning on Friday, August 6th, anyone entering a County building must wear a facemask and submit to a temperature check at the door.

"It is unfortunate that the County must re-impose its facemask policy but, with the number of cases rising and the increase in hospitalizations, it is necessary to protect public health," says Lamont McClure. "I encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The sooner we reach herd immunity, the sooner we can break the back of this pandemic."

Northampton County Prison (NCP) and Gracedale Nursing Home have maintained facemask policies since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. NCP continues to be closed to volunteers and visitors. Gracedale Nursing Home allows for visits from family members and compassionate visits if they are scheduled in advance. All volunteers are required to be vaccinated.

Lamont McClure and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVH-CHA) remind county residents that the drive-through center at 3100 Emrick Blvd. in Bethlehem Township offers both testing for COVID-19 and vaccinations. Hours of operation are Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 10:00AM – 2:00PM and Tuesday/Thursday from 2:00PM – 6:00PM. Vaccinations are by appointment only and are only available for Northampton County residents ages twelve and over. Patients can choose from all three vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Pfizer and Moderna require two shots administered three weeks apart, Johnson and Johnson requires only one dose.

To make an appointment for a vaccine at the COVID-19 testing site use one of the following options:

Schedule at the LVHN website at LVHN.org/appointments.

Schedule on the MyLVHN patient portal, at MyLVHN.org.

Call 833-584-6283 (833-LVHN-CVD). The COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

A Physician's order is not required for a COVID-19 test. The drive-through site is open to everyone, but only residents of Northampton County will have the cost of testing covered by the County if they do not have health coverage. All testing will be through HNL Lab Medicine unless insurance requires an alternate laboratory. Participants should bring a photo ID and their insurance card, if they have one, with them to the testing site.

PA Budget Matters to You! Keeping Our Families and Communities Safe

By State Rep Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - In late June, the General Assembly passed and the governor signed the 2021-22 state budget into law. In recent weeks, I've been sharing more details about the plan and how it meets today's needs while also planning for the future.

This budget will allow the Pennsylvania State Police to train TWO new cadet classes, which will add up to an additional 180 troopers to protect communities throughout the state.

To further promote safe communities, the budget allots \$30 million for violence intervention and prevention. The plan also sets aside \$372 million in federal relief funds to be used for on-going pandemic response to return stability and wellness to Pennsylvanians.

Finally, \$5 million in federal funds is allocated to the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund to support our first responders.

Learn more about the budget here <http://www.pahousegop.com/2122PAbudget>.



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