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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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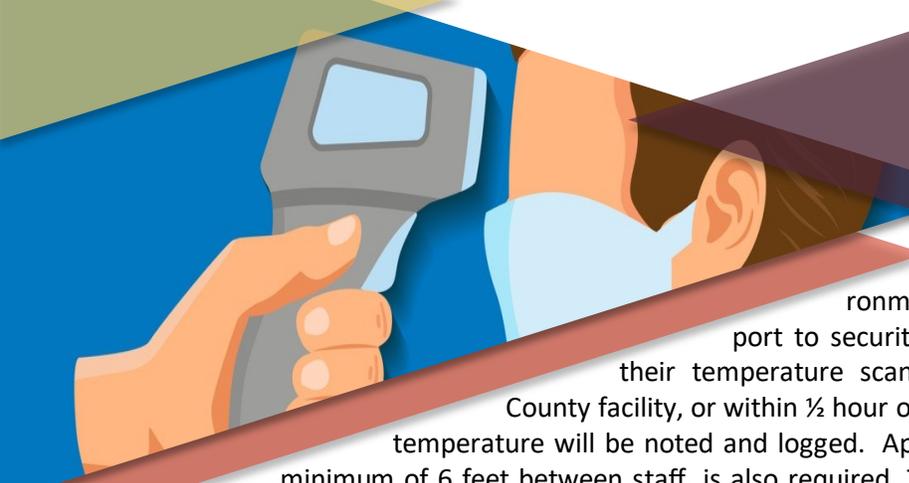
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COVID-19 *Precautions Reinforced*

The recent positive COVID tests in the Adams County Sheriff's Department should be a strong signal to all of us, in both this organization and in the community, that no individual, department or organization is immune to this virus. Because of these recent positive tests, we have taken actions for that department that include incident investigation, contact tracing, notifications, self-quarantine, departmental testing, administrative leave, remote work, and limitations on or exclusion of work-related contacts. Note that for the next several weeks, the Sheriff's Department will not be performing all of their regular duties due to the positive test results and due to following work place safety precautions that have been implemented.

As a result of this specific situation, and due to the upward trend in positive test results across the County and Commonwealth, staff is reminded that they must be masked when not working alone in their office envi-



ronment, and must report to security every day to have their temperature scanned upon entry to a County facility, or within ½ hour of reporting to work. The scanned temperature will be noted and logged. Appropriate social distancing, maintaining a minimum of 6 feet between staff, is also required. These directives are mandated by the County and Court Work Place Safety Policy. For those who qualify, remote work is and continues to be the best option to reduce contact and exposure. Directors are requested to discuss this with their staff. Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing continue to be a priority for Custodial staff. If staff has any additional suggestions or comments in that regard, please contact Becky Tracey, Manager of the custodial staff or County Manager Steve Nevada.

Adams County Staff Travel Protocol

The Adams County Board of Commissioners & the Adams County Court of Common Pleas have instituted the following Travel Protocol in response to the Governor’s July 2, 2020 Recommendation regarding voluntary travel to states that have been designated as COVID-19 “hot-spots.”

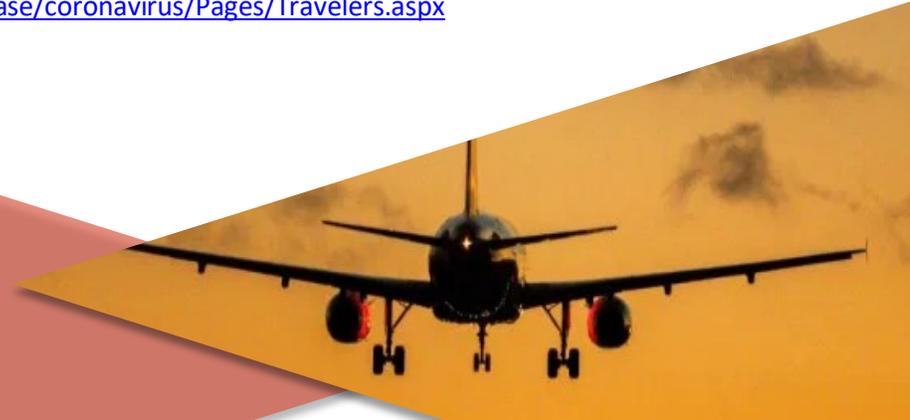
While traveling, please be vigilant of circumstances/locations which may increase the risk of infection and exercise appropriate discretion and common sense to avoid or remove yourself from such risk. If traveling to a PA Department of Health designated COVID-19 “hot-spot,” you must inform your supervisor of your travels prior to returning to work.

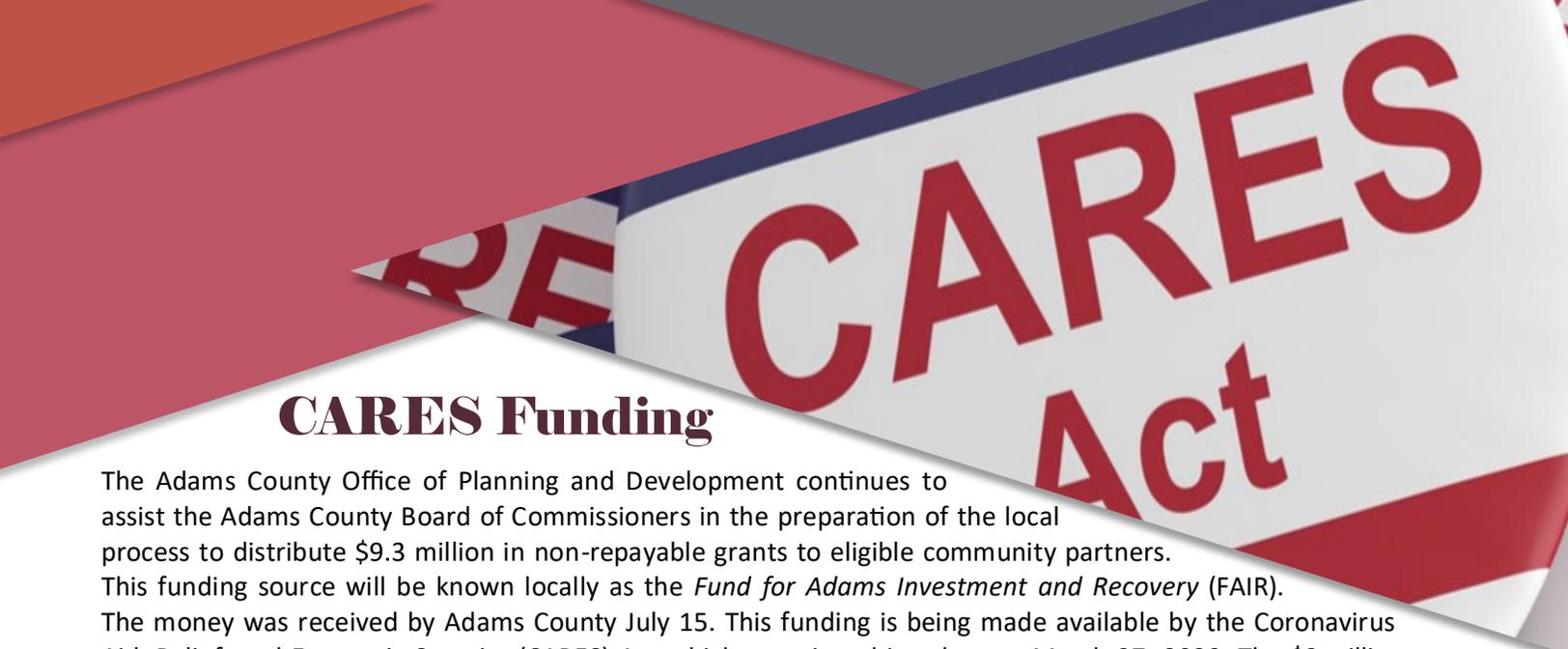
If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms upon your return home, you will not be permitted to return to the workplace until cleared by medical personnel. You may be required to self-quarantine for up to 15 days. If you were exposed to a person during your travels that has tested positive for COVID-19, you must immediately notify your supervisor. Time off may require utilization of PTO or leave without pay.

If upon your return you are **not** experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, you will be advised by your Director to do one of two things: (1) work remotely for 14 calendar days if job functions permit remote work, as determined by the Director (2) quarantine on the work site for 14 calendar days, if on-site work is required, as determined by the Director. With on-site quarantine, staff are to remain at their workstation with as little movement in the shared work area as possible. Staff is not to interact with other employees at other workstations or common areas unless necessary to job performance. If required by the nature of work to leave the individual workstation, the staff member shall insure that he/she is always masked and, unless unavoidable, you must stay at least 10 feet away from any other person.

As with any new protocol there will be questions that arise. As you encounter questions please direct them to your supervisor so we can address them. If unsure about something, please err on the side of caution and treat your co-workers with the same courtesy and concern for safety that you would expect for yourself.

As of 7/16/20 the following states were identified by the PA Governor’s office as “hot-spots:” Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. Please check the PA Department of Health site for an up to date listing. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>





CARES Funding

The Adams County Office of Planning and Development continues to assist the Adams County Board of Commissioners in the preparation of the local process to distribute \$9.3 million in non-repayable grants to eligible community partners. This funding source will be known locally as the *Fund for Adams Investment and Recovery* (FAIR). The money was received by Adams County July 15. This funding is being made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The \$2 trillion economic relief package aims to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides economic assistance for local governments and American workers, families, and small businesses. The final guidelines are a work in progress, but some general guidelines are listed below:

The CARES Act stipulates that payments may only be utilized to cover costs as noted below:

1. Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. Expenses that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government;
3. COVID expenses incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.
4. COVID expenses that have not already been reimbursed by another program.

This funding is strictly for support of COVID-19 related activities to offset the cost of direct COVID-19 response; assist small businesses, and municipalities; provide behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services; and fund nonprofit assistance programs.

These federal funds are being provided to the 60 counties with populations under 500,000, through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The 7 counties with populations over 500,000 received their stipend directly from the federal government in April. Be advised there are also numerous other programs available with different beneficiaries and guidelines.

The guidelines for this program are still being developed, with DCED hosting a Guideline Webinar for counties on July 28. Once this process has been established, and Adams County has developed its local program guidelines, these Adams County Program Guidelines will be made available to the public through a link on the main page of the

Adams County website www.adamscounty.us We will also be announcing the opening of the application period in a variety of forums including local media. Until then, please continue to collect all documentation related to your expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Again, expenditures must have occurred between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 to be eligible for reimbursement from this funding source. Please continue to review the resources available on our website, and remember to check in regularly for updates.

Excellent Fiscal Rating

It was announced at Wednesday's Commissioners Meeting that Adams County has retained Moody's Aa2 superior fiscal rating with a stable outlook. The Rating Outlook stated that "The stable outlook reflects the County's strong financial position, which we expect to be maintained over the medium term given management's conservative budgeting process." This rating is extremely significant when seeking bonds and financing debt. The county fiscal rating is also important to county municipalities when they seek favorable financing rates. A big shout out to our Fiscal Team, Solicitor and County Administration for practices, procedures and for their preparation and execution during the interview process.

In some more good news correlated to retaining our fiscal rating, we received word yesterday that a recent refinancing is going to save us approximately \$2M over the previous rate over the next 24 months. We received an interest rate of slightly over 2%. Considering anticipated revenue shortfalls due to COVID, this is a welcome development.

AC Receives Emergency Solutions CARES Grant

It was also announced at Wednesday's Commissioners Meeting that DCED approved a grant of \$340,732 for Adams County. These funds are provided through the Department's Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act to address local needs resulting from the coronavirus pandemic impacting Pennsylvania. The funds will be administered by South Central Community Action Programs (SCAAP) for homeless and rent assistance, and rapid re-housing. SCCAP will partner with the Adams County Housing Authority and the Salvation Army to coordinate assistance for Adams County families in housing distress.

2020 Census Important

The 2020 Census is underway. Adams County's response rate is at a standstill at 72%. In 2010 Adams County had a 77% response rate. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the response. The goal is to have a 100% response rate, so Adams County receives its fair share of Federal dollars and has appropriate representation in Congress. It is quick and easy to fill out the form on-line, by phone or mail.



The **End**

After the last two weekends in our community, I believe most of us wish for a quieter weekend without protesters, militia, rumors, threats or the need to deploy law enforcement. During this pandemic, it has been our objective for Adams County to appear as a safe haven destination for visitors attracted to our history, agricultural roots, businesses, and beautiful vistas and landscapes. I believe we now must put extra effort into being good hosts and spreading the word that Adams County is open for business and travel. I would be remiss in ending this thread without thanking all the law enforcement agencies and their personnel that came to our community the previous two weekends to assist with events. We appreciate the fact that with their presence - there were only a few minor incidents.

This seems like a good weekend to stop by the Sachs Mill Covered Bridge, take a short walk to Upper Temple at Camp Nawaka, sit on Little Roundtop and watch the sunset, have a picnic somewhere along Conewago Creek, go pick your own blueberries at Boyers Nursery or Hollabaugh Bros., stop by the historic Fairfield Inn now known as the Mansion House, walk through the National Cemetery, have some Half Pint ice cream at the old (recently remodeled) school house in Brushtown, or have a picnic beside the stream at Caledonia.

There is so much to do, enjoy and appreciate in Adams County, no matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural and historic opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!