

**COVID-19 Update Meeting**  
**Borough of State College & Neighborhood Coalitions**  
**Friday, April 17, 2020**

## Overview

- Welcome / Introduction / Introductions
- Comments from Mayor Filippelli
- Community Engagement - Available Resources for Residents
- Department of Health/Governor Order Guidance – Mask Use
- Department of Health/Governor Order Guidance – Stay at Home
- Q & A

- Community Engagement – Kevin Kassab
  - Available Resources for Residents
    - Meeting weekly with local agencies
    - Developed flyers, posters and poster cards with COVID-19 information and Centre Helps' 24/7 hotline to access social services
    - The goal of the flyers was to reach a part of the community that has little to no internet access
    - Information flyers have been given to Phillipsburg United Way, SCSD meal distribution program and essential businesses like Pharmacies and Grocery Stores
    - Information postcards will be mailed to single-family homes in the Borough and delivered to Addison Court and Bellaire Court Tenants
    - The communications department is working on updating the website, premiering in radio spots, and posting a Mayor's message weekly
- Police Department & Department of Health – Chief Gardner & Brian O'Donnell
  - Governor Order Guidance on Mask Use
  - Governor Order Guidance on Stay at Home
  - Retail food establishments

## Questions Asked During Meeting

**Do we have an estimate for how many PSU students have returned to State College?**

Approximately 200 students are remaining in the residence halls on campus and in conversations with the various rental property managers, there is approximately 15-20% occupancy in the rental properties. There has not been a noticeable change since the impact of the pandemic began in our community.

**Have the results of the recent community survey been published? If so, where?**

Yes, on the Borough web site at

<http://www.statecollegepa.us/DocumentCenter/View/22348/Borough-of-State-College---COVID-19-Survey-Report>

**Is this meeting open to all citizens or is just attend by Coalition members?**

This specific meeting was just offered to Coalition members

**We see number of cases in Centre County hopefully peaking, but does the Borough know where the 73 current cases originated within the County? How many are here in State College?**

At the time of this meeting (4/17/2020), there was no breakdown of positive cases by community or municipality. However, effective 4/20/2020, the PA Department of Health began to provide a breakdown of positive cases based on zip codes.

That interactive map can be found at <https://coronavirus-response-state-college-borough-statecollegepa.hub.arcgis.com/>

**How do police and other Borough official expect Penn State's virtual tailgate to impact the residential neighborhoods? Will kids who are here in their apartments and other dwellings be outside in groups, "celebrating"?**

There has been very little social media activity around the virtual tailgate. The Borough does not anticipate Blue and White Weekend's virtual tailgate will be an issue for our local community.

**On a recent walk along College Avenue and on the PSU campus we encountered about 40 mostly--but not all--college-aged people without masks and in groups of 3, 4, and more. Can the Borough and PSU work together to remind people to practice safe distancing and to wear masks? (None of these people was concerned about coming within 6' of us; we had to walk around them.)**

While masks under the circumstances are not REQUIRED by the order, masks are recommended. The Borough continues to promote the importance of social distancing and the wearing of masks in numerous ways. The University has also done this through letters to parents and students, not bringing students back after Spring Break, and in other ways.

**What is requirement for individuals coming into Centre County with respect to self-quarantining (isolation)? What messaging is or will the Borough send out on this requirement?**

There is no REQUIREMENT for anyone coming into Centre County to self-quarantine, though regardless of where persons arrive from when coming to State College, they are encouraged to self-quarantine, especially from areas with high incidences of COVID-19 positive cases. The Borough has put this on COVID-19 updates previously.

**For clarification purposes: the mask order pertains to stores and enclosed spaces, but not parks and open spaces?**

Yes, you do not need to wear a mask when outdoors though it is still important to still social distance from others with whom persons reside.

**Whose job is it to enforce mask order? Store managers or employees? Law enforcement? Private citizens/customers?**

Businesses are expected to require masks unless a person has a health reason preventing him/her from wearing a mask. Anyone not wearing a mask should not be permitted in the business. Employers are also responsible to require their employees to wear masks. Any violations of this ORDER are enforced by local law enforcement.

**Are there protocols for funeral home employees who deal with bodies of those who died of Covid 19?**

When this question was asked, the panelists did not have an answer to this question. However, as a follow up by staff, the following information was learned:

The below link from the CDC has information about what funeral homes need to know about handling a COVID-19 positive body.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Ffaq.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Ffaq.html)

**Are you only license plate scanning on the streets? There are lots of out-of-state plates at rental parking lots and elsewhere?**

Yes, we are only scanning license plates of vehicles parked on the public streets.

**Where should citizens call to report violations?**

Call non-emergency police department phone number which is (814) 234-7150

**What about person who transports the body to funeral home?**

Refer to the previous answer above. Additionally, staff contacted Koch Funeral Home on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to be sure they were aware of the guidance provided by the CDC. The funeral home director advised they are aware of and following the recommendations for handling a COVID-19 body. They have received guidance previously and continue to receive updated guidance from the WHO, CDC, National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), and others on proper handling and transporting of the COVID-19 bodies. Also, they have an ample supply of the proper disinfectant and personal protective equipment (PPE) that is recommended.

**County Commissioners have begun furloughing employees starting end of day today. Are any changes for Borough employees anticipated? Are Borough employees reporting to office or working from home?**

At this time there are no employees furloughed or laid off at the Borough. Most employees are working from home. A Borough COVID-19 leave policy has been implemented.