

Office of Representative Brian Sims
COVID-19 Resources
Updated: 3.25.2020



**CONTACT MY
(VIRTUAL)
OFFICE**

While my physical district office is closed to the public, we are still here to serve you.

NEED HELP WITH?

- Unemployment Compensation
- Property Tax Rent Rebates
- Small business resources

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?

- Meal sites in Philadelphia
- Recommendations for social distancing
- Helplines for those impacted by COVID19

CONTACT MY OFFICE:

☎ 267-354-0023 📧 RepSims@pahouse.net 

We are here to serve you!
As a reminder, my district office will be closed to the public temporarily.

My staff are working remotely and are happy to assist you. Please call 267-354-0023 for help with state government-related services or e-mail RepSims@pahouse.net.

Philadelphia COVID-19 Testing Process and Sites

If you are feeling symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider. If you do not have a healthcare provider, call the PA Department of Health at 1-877-PA-Health. Testing must be scheduled in advance, and the following testing sites are open to patients referred by their doctors:

- Penn Medicine: <https://www.pennmedicine.org/coronavirus>
- Jefferson Health:
https://www.jeffersonhealth.org/coronavirus-covid-19.html?utm_source=cv19banner
- Temple University:
<https://www.templehealth.org/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia:
<https://www.chop.edu/coronavirus-updates>

The City of Philadelphia is announcing the location of a COVID19 testing site located at Citizens Bank Park, will be open daily from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. beginning Friday, March 20, 2020. **Eligibility guidelines differ at this site for testing.**

- More information in their press release
here: <https://mailchi.mp/phila.gov/city-of-philadelphia-announces-opening-of>

[-covid-19-coronavirus-testing-site?e=7b77a33bb0&fbclid=IwAR01gZDKwakxpqsj45bHUNKEEx8OhbiBaJXpEEWb8zp5NamRudu0AF09YFto](https://www.phila.gov/2020-03-14-find-free-meals-and-safe-spaces-for-students-while-schools-are-closed/?fbclid=IwAR01gZDKwakxpqsj45bHUNKEEx8OhbiBaJXpEEWb8zp5NamRudu0AF09YFto)

Where to find meals during the week in District 182.

- New meal sites have been announced for the city beginning on March 23rd.
- Sites include district schools, charter schools, and PHA sites.
- See the list for details:

<https://www.phila.gov/2020-03-14-find-free-meals-and-safe-spaces-for-students-while-schools-are-closed/?fbclid=IwAR1FkHx98pmBU344SCyugcpa6GhUgvx3imSJbDU7Op06XJydAoFD29gMMTE>

Do you need to file for unemployment as a result of COVID19?

- If you are unable to work or have had your hours reduced in Pennsylvania due to the COVID-19 outbreak, you may be eligible for unemployment compensation through the Department of Labor & Industry. The one week waiting period has been suspended, so you do not have to wait before claiming unemployment benefits. You can apply online with the Pennsylvania Office of Unemployment Compensation website.

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/covid19.aspx>

Small Business Aid

- Governor Wolf's order urged all non-essential businesses to close to contain the spread of COVID-19. Non-essential industries include entertainment, hospitality, recreation, sports venues, and retail facilities.
- Our small business will be impacted drastically by this pandemic -- and everyone has a role in helping them get back on their feet.
- If you're a small business that has been affected by COVID-19 and the Governor's order's to close, visit **[dced.pa.gov/resources/](https://www.dced.pa.gov/resources/)** or <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources> for resources on how you can receive aid.

- The City of Philadelphia and PIDC have launched the Philadelphia COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund which offers a mix of new grants and zero-interest loans for small businesses. Learn more:
- <https://www.phila.gov/programs/philadelphia-covid-19-small-business-relief-fund/?fbclid=IwAR2mNalt126U0Mdllzq3dwUd6hYFdEY6WuHx95Z33CvKqo1kc0jXZDq3TB8>

Recommendations for social distancing

- Social distancing is one of the most important steps we can all take together to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect everyone. Social distancing means avoiding all unnecessary travel and social interactions. If you are feeling sick or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or is experiencing symptoms, stay home and contact a medical provider. If you must travel or go to work or a store, stay six feet away from other people, and do not attend gatherings of more than ten people. Wash your hands regularly, use hand sanitizer or hand sanitizing wipes at least 60% alcohol if you cannot access soap and water, and try to avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

Need help navigating the COVID19 Pandemic?

- If you have additional questions or concerns about COVID-19, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health website or call their hotline, 877-724-3258. While we are all concerned about public health during this outbreak, remember the importance of your mental health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline is 800-985-5990, or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.

Child Care Resources

- Pennsylvania Child Care Facilities were closed on March 16, although they may apply for a waiver to reopen to aid health care workers and first responders as they work through the pandemic. Day cares operating out of someone's house, that serve fewer than 16 children (not counting those related to the operator,) are exempt from the ban. The state will continue to

pay subsidies to providers who care for kids enrolled in Child Care Works through April 30th, regardless of whether they are open or not.

Tax Deadline

- The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue today announced the deadline for taxpayers to file their 2019 Pennsylvania personal income tax returns is extended to July 15, 2020. This means taxpayers will have an additional 90 days to file from the original deadline of April 15. The Internal Revenue Service also extended the federal filing deadline to July 15, 2020.

Pa Supreme Court Decision to Halt Evictions

- In a Judicial Statewide Emergency, “ Pennsylvania Supreme Court halted any court action to “effectuate an eviction, ejection or other displacement from a residence based upon the failure to make a rent, loan, or other similar payment,” until April 3rd or further depending on developments.”
- This means that residents in Pennsylvania will not be forced into homelessness because of the impact of COVID19 on incomes and wages. For more information, please visit <http://www.pacourts.us/ujs-coronavirus-information>.

Telemedicine Guidelines

- Licensed healthcare professionals with the PA Department of State can now provide telemedicine services -- ensuring continuity of care and social distancing guidelines. More information here: https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/State-Details.aspx?newsid=375&fbclid=IwAR1K2gwwXjOgJlJnOw0hN2TGEdwI72JX3etE9VKxFesP0_zdqYEvRv9uBys

Census information

- Remember to complete the 2020 census! The results of the census impact your representation in Congress and the state legislature and funding for roads and highways, school lunch programs, hospitals, and first responders.

- Most households will receive a 2020 census form in the mail, but Pennsylvanians can also fill out a census form online at mycensus2020.gov.

Debunking Myths about COVID-19

- Myth: Warm weather kills the virus and it cannot spread during the summer or in warm climates.
 - Fact: COVID-19 can be transmitted regardless of the weather, and it is important to engage in social distancing measures and wash your hands no matter what the temperature is outside.
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- Myth: Children and young people cannot contract COVID-19.
 - Fact: People can contract COVID-19 regardless of their age. Children and young people without any underlying conditions or risk factors may experience milder symptoms, but they can still contract and spread the virus to more vulnerable populations.
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- Myth: The virus is only spread by people with symptoms, like a fever or a dry cough.
 - Fact: COVID-19 can be spread by people who have been infected but are not yet displaying symptoms. This is why it is so important to maintain social distancing measures, wash your hands, and clean surfaces even if you do not feel sick.