

**MAIL-IN VOTING**

Prospects dim for critical election bill in Pennsylvania

**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

North Penn sophomore Ryan Zeltt no longer a surprise



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# Virus resurgence continues in Pa.

By Chris Ullery  
Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pennsylvania's new coronavirus cases over the weekend show a continuing climb at rates seen when the pandemic first hit the commonwealth in March.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health reported Monday that total cases rose by 2,372 over the weekend, bringing the statewide total since the spring to 183,315 people.

State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine and Gov. Tom Wolf said rising new cases continue to show a resurgence of

the virus in Pennsylvania.

"The fall resurgence is here, and while we must always take this deadly virus seriously, now is the time for all of us to double down on our efforts to keep ourselves and those around us safe," Wolf said Monday.

Monday marked the 14th consecutive day the state has seen over 1,000 new cases, a trend seen across the country as temperatures drop and people spend more time indoors, Levine said.

About 80% of those cases have recovered when considering those patients passing 30 days since a positive test

or onset of symptoms.

About 841 patients were hospitalized across the commonwealth as of Monday, an increase nearly doubled since Sept. 22, Levine added.

"We expect these numbers to continue to increase, as hospitalizations normally rise a few weeks after an increase in cases, and ... as the flu season starts," Levine said.

Although hospitalizations are rising, Levine echoed comments from last week's update that these are still far below what the state experienced in the spring.

See **VIRUS**, A2



Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine speaks with the press on Sept. 30 as new cases of coronavirus begin increasing to a fall resurgence across most of the commonwealth in October. [PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH]



A second drop box is wheeled in to help alleviate long lines that formed as voters waited to deliver their absentee and mail-in ballots at the Bucks County Administration Building in Doylestown Borough on Monday, October 19, 2020. [PHOTOS BY MICHELE HADDON / PHOTOJOURNALIST]

Two lines stretch out from the Bucks County Administration Building in Doylestown Borough on Monday, October 19, 2020, one on the left for voters dropping off absentee and mail-in ballots and one on the right for those waiting to cast their ballots through early in-person voting.



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## Montgomery to aid child care centers, families

By Peg Quann  
Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Montgomery County has set aside \$12 million of the federal CARES Act funding it has received to deal with the COVID crisis specifically to help child care providers and the families they serve now that many children aren't learning in school.

Since the pandemic struck, 260 licensed child care providers across Pennsylvania have closed permanently while another 400 closed temporarily, state Human Services records show. Their enrollment declined as parents opted to keep their children home, or because of staffing issues due to fear of the virus spreading at the centers.

The Montco Cares Program, which was announced earlier this month, will run through Dec. 30. It is designed to "ensure the financial viability of Montgomery County child care centers that have experienced disruption due to the COVID-19 global pandemic" as well as support families financially impacted by the pandemic.

"We all know there are many parents who need to be at work, whether physically outside the home or physically inside the home," said the county commissioner Chairwoman Dr. Valerie Arkoosh in discussing the program at a news conference Wednesday. "Any of us who are parents know it's hard to concentrate on work when you're worried about your child. "Hopefully, it will make it a lot easier for a number of families."

At the Happy Minds Montessori School in Horsham, director Inga Mountain said the school has

See **CENTERS**, A2

# CASTING THEIR VOTE

Long lines greeted voters at the Bucks County Administration Building in Doylestown Borough and at the county satellite office in Levittown on Monday as they arrived

to drop off their mail-in and absentee ballots or take part in on-demand voting. County officials brought out extra ballot boxes just to accommodate the demand.

Monday was the final day

to register to vote. The total number of state voters has passed 9 million, state elections official said Monday. That includes more than 4.2 million Democrats, and more than 3.5 million Republicans,

just over 895,000 independents and about 407,000 voters registered with another party.

The deadline to apply for mail-in and absentee ballots is 5 p.m. Oct. 27.