

Good Evening-

A few updates that I wanted to make everyone aware of -

## CARBON COUNTY ADDED TO THE STAY AT HOME ORDER; SCHOOLS AND BUSINESS CLOSURES CONTINUE

- Today, Governor Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine revised their Stay at Home Order to include Carbon County. Luzerne County was added last week. All 'Stay at Home' orders are until April 30.
- All Pennsylvania schools are closed until further notice.
- Non-life sustaining business closures remain in effect.
- For further information on the Stay at Home order and the extended school closures, please click <u>here.</u>

## LABOR & INDUSTRY UPDATES

Governor Wolf's order for all non-life-sustaining businesses to close has created unprecedented financial hardships for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania workers who were suddenly left without a paycheck.

Although the state has eased eligibility criteria and waived certain requirements to help many affected workers through a <u>new law I supported last week</u>, contractors and other self-employed individuals who are not typically eligible for unemployment compensation still faced a great deal of uncertainty.

However, a new program just approved by our counterparts in Congress could offer relief to these individuals and families. The newly created Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program is designed to provide payments to individuals who are not usually eligible for unemployment benefits and are unable to work due to the coronavirus public health emergency.

The program requires an agreement between the state and the federal government, and a separate application may be necessary for these workers to collect benefits. Work is ongoing between the state and federal government to get this program up and running, and it is expected that an application process will be created very soon. I will share additional updates as soon as information becomes available.

I encourage you all to visit the PA Department of Labor & Industry's website for <u>COVID-19 Information</u> and <u>Resources</u>. L&I is working to update their resources page so please check back frequently.

As I receive more information, my office and I will continue to reach out to you.