

**For Release Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

## **County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Alert**

*COVID-19 Cases in Berks County Cross 2,000*

**Reading, PA— 4/22/2020** — After showing a small dip in the number of reported COVID-19 cases on Monday and Tuesday, Berks County has now crossed over 2,000 confirmed cases, for a total to date of 2069, making up 5.7% of Pennsylvania's current total.

### **Berks County numbers continue to climb.**

Since Governor Tom Wolf issued the statewide Stay-at-Home order on April 1, 2020, Berks County reported a surge of confirmed COVID-19 cases over recent weeks, currently following behind four other Pennsylvania counties (Philadelphia, 9,696; Montgomery, 3,294; Delaware, 2,757 and Lehigh, 2,374.) There have been several days where the number of new cases in Berks County hit triple digits, threatening to overwhelm area hospitals. *“While Monday and Tuesday’s case count offered a welcome reprieve from a series of exceedingly high daily totals,”* Commissioner Rivera noted, *“the numbers in Berks County continue to rise showing there’s still room for improvement.”*

### **Continued mitigation efforts will make the difference.**

Berks County Commissioners continue to emphasize how critically important it is for residents to stay at home whenever possible and reduce the chance of spreading the virus by following proper COVID-19 Health and Safety practices when out in public. Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine stated that mitigation efforts such as social distancing are working, but it's important that everyone continues to follow these guidelines in order to protect themselves and their community.

*“I would like to thank the good people of Berks County for their continued efforts to **Do Your Part-Stop the Spread**,” said Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt. “Pennsylvania took precautions early and the recent results appear to show that these efforts are working. We were eased into the safety restrictions one step at a time and it will take a step by step process to monitor conditions and slowly and safely get Berks back to normal.”*

Berks County launched its new website, [www.DoYourPartBerks.com](http://www.DoYourPartBerks.com) last Thursday as a way for area businesses and residents to do their part in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

*“We’re asking everyone in our community to take these efforts seriously.”* stated Commissioner Christian Leinbach. *“The increase of positive cases in Berks County, and how many more are added, is directly impacted by how we as Berks Countians respond. Our personal actions will determine how quickly Berks County will recover.”*

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