

**For Release Wednesday 4/21/2021**

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

*Commissioners' Public Update program will highlight departments, services to recognize why 'Counties Matter' as part of National County Government Month*

**Reading, PA— 4/21/2021** — The Berks County Commissioners will host a Media and Public Update program on **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 3:30 PM** on Microsoft Teams Live Event. Click [here](#) to find the link to this meeting. This Press Event will also be streamed Live to the Berks County [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#) channel and BCTV. This week's program will recognize April as National County Government Month and this year's theme of 'Counties Matter.' The program will highlight several County departments and services that have stepped up throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to either offer new services or make adjustments to adopt to the new virtual reality. The program will also provide information about NACo's Live Healthy program that offers residents discounts on prescriptions and health costs and services.

**Welcome – Commissioner Christian Leinbach**

**Comments – Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt**

**Comments – Commissioner Michael Rivera**

**Introduction and brief explanation of National County Government Month –  
Commissioner Leinbach**

- 1. NACo Live Healthy Program** – John Losh, Associate Membership Director, NACo:
  - Overview of the program
  - What services are available
  - How can residents sign up?
  
- 2. Department of Emergency Services** – Matthew Stairiker, Assistant Director for Emergency Management

Summary of the important role DES has taken on throughout the pandemic and the various adjustments that have occurred as needs changed.

- Initial emergency response in March 2020
- PPE needs
- COVID-19 testing
- Vaccine

3. **Information Systems Department** – Justin Loose, Chief Information Officer
  - Pivot to virtual meetings
  - Use of technology in Courts and Row Offices
  - Deployment of hardware
  - The impact the pandemic had on software projects
  
4. **Area Agency on Aging** – Jessica Jones, Director
  - Overview of the need that developed as the COVID-19 vaccine became available and how the Area Agency on Aging responded
  - Partnerships and cooperation with local vaccine providers
  - Homebound vaccination effort with the Berks Community Health Center
  
5. **Berks County Library System** – Alison Trautmann, Outreach Services Coordinator
  - Summary of the problems and needs the Library System saw as the pandemic hit our community
  - Overview of the Mobile Job Lab
  - Feedback from residents who have utilized the Mobile Job Lab
  
6. **Commissioner Comments/Other Efforts**
  - Facilities and Operations
  
7. **Questions and Answers** – Facilitated by Commissioner Leinbach

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