

SENATOR
KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL

28TH DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE
SENATE BOX 203028
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3028
PHONE: 717-787-7085

DISTRICT OFFICE
6872 SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL SOUTH
P.O. BOX 277
JACOBUS, PA 17407-0277
717-741-4648
FAX 717-741-4655

SenatorKristin@pasen.gov
senatorkristin.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, CHAIR
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May 20, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

via email to Will Danowski, Secretary of Legislative Affairs

Re: Green Phase Metrics

Dear Governor Wolf:

As York County prepares to move to the “yellow” phase of your phased reopening plan on Friday, May 22, I know our community can continue to be a leader among larger counties in this Commonwealth.

York County continues to defy the statewide odds. Only 4 of the county’s 18 deaths are attributed to our nursing homes, which is a testament to the hardworking staff and frontline workers protecting our most vulnerable population. In fact, York County accounts for 0.13 percent of all nursing home-related deaths in Pennsylvania.

Hospitals in the county are also well-prepared with only three ventilators currently in use (out of 137 available) for COVID-19 patients. York County accounts for 2.5 percent of all ventilators in the state, however, the county’s use of the ventilators account for less than 1 percent (0.79%) statewide.

Despite being the Commonwealth’s 8th most populous county, York ranks 16th in confirmed cases. Furthermore, the county has conducted more tests than 59 other counties. York County is the only county in the Commonwealth to have tested over 8,000 patients and have a case count lower than 1,000 (866). Since May 6, York County has averaged 10.71 new cases per day.

Here are some more statistics that show how York County has led during this pandemic:

	York County	Pennsylvania
Negative Tests	10,589	4,269 (county average)
Nursing Home Cases (resident) (as of 5/18)	15	302 (county average)
Nursing Home Deaths (as of 5/18)	4	68 (county average)
Nursing Home Deaths as % of Total Deaths (as of 5/18)	22.2%	68.5% (statewide average)
Ventilators in Use for COVID-19 (compared to total available)	2.19%	7.07% (statewide average)

(Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health)

As York Countians prepare to move into the “yellow” phase of the reopening process on May 22, it is clear that metrics are required to know what exactly needs to be done to move into the “green” phase. Many businesses are still unable to reopen under the “yellow” phase and have asked me how much longer they must wait. Employees have reached out to me seeking a resolution to their unemployment compensation claims that continue to drag on since the shutdown began two months ago.

While no county has moved into that phase because of a lack of metrics, it is paramount that your Administration provide transparency and guidance as lives and livelihoods in York County and across this Commonwealth are on the line.

Protecting our public health and protecting our economy are not mutually exclusive goals. York Countians have flattened the curve, limited exposure in nursing homes and slowed the spread of this virus.

Your Administration’s lack of guidance on this front is only going to lead to more individuals challenging your authority. I urge you to publicly release the guidance (with all metrics) to allow York County to safely, responsibly and intelligently reopen its economy and allow the hardworking and good-natured people to begin to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kristin Phillips-Hill
Senator, 28th District