



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RESTART Montco—New County Initiative Focuses on Planning to Help with Recovery from COVID-19 Restrictions

Norristown, PA (July 21, 2020) – RESTART Montco, developed by the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC), looks at how planning can help our communities recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns due to restrictions and adjust to current reopening guidance.

“Responsibly restarting our economy is a top priority across Montgomery County. RESTART Montco assists with this through a planning approach that uses an innovative, comprehensive platform that invites the public to share information and experiences. Whether you are a business owner, local elected official, or wondering how we can make the best use of our wonderful recreation spaces, there is something on this site for you,” said Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

This initiative uses a web-based platform to provide resources and to inform and encourage open dialogue and community collaboration on common issues around the physical and land use environment that is key to facilitating a successful reopening.

It is designed to be beneficial to municipal staff and officials, business owners, nonprofits, and the general public as Montgomery County deals with the unique and challenging threats and effects of the pandemic.

RESTART Montco is organized into six general categories with specific topics explored through curated outside resources, MCPC-created content, stories or examples of success, and forums for public discussion. Categories and topics include:

Economic & Businesses

- Outdoor Dining
- Outdoor Markets
- E-Commerce
- Delivery and Product Distribution

Government Regulations & Zoning

- State and MPC issues
- Municipal Strategies

Transportation

- Adaptive Streets
- Multimodal and Biking Alternatives

Housing

- Affordability and Market Disruption

Public Meetings

- Effective Virtual Meetings

Open Space & Recreation

- Social Distancing
- Open Space Reimagined

Each topic is further explored through a graphically appealing Planning Paper, which delves into the subject and provides key takeaways, additional resources, related RESTART Montco links, quotes, and examples from around the county and other locations.

A major component is a series of public forums that relate to each topic. The public is invited to join these forums to share information, related experiences, and success stories with others in their community, the county, and beyond.

RESTART Montco will be continually updated as challenges and solutions evolve. Visit www.montcopa.org/RestartMontco to view all resources and to be part of the conversation on how to help communities in Montgomery County recover and run safely during the pandemic.

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