**Public Health not Public Drinking**

**Jeff Hanley - Commonwealth Prevention Alliance of Pennsylvania**

**Written press conference statement**

Hello, my name is Jeff Hanley, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance, of Pennsylvania, a statewide nonprofit that supports organizations and coalitions across the state to Prevent substance misuse.

During the pandemic, PA has enacted alcohol policies with the potential to adversely affect the public health of communities:

1. The temporary sale of cocktails-to-go from bars, restaurants or hotels with a liquor license.
2. And, regulations on bars and restaurants to only serve alcohol with a meal, which is defined as:
3. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Pennsylvania is an alcoholic beverage control state with wine and spirits to be sold only in the state-owned stores.

* Covid has opened the door for legislative discussions on privatization of alcohol
* We need to continue to support the controlled state model and the PA Liquor Control Board with their excellent jobs and benefits.

Alcohol consumption can increase during stressful times and may be mistaken as coping. During the pandemic there are added factors of job loss, reduced income, youth education, and easy access to alcohol that is likely intensifying those factors and leading to misuse.

The need for Prevention and Public Health is NOW.