



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Punxsutawney Phil Predicts Six More Weeks of Winter for 2021

Punxsutawney, PA – This morning, Pennsylvania's own world-famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, predicting six more weeks of winter. For the first-ever virtual Groundhog Day celebration, visitors from all over the world tuned in to see Phil make his highly anticipated weather prognostication for the 135th time.

"Groundhog Day is a beloved Pennsylvania tradition that has been embraced wholeheartedly by Phil's faithful fans from around the world for generations," said Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. "Although we couldn't celebrate together in person this year, viewers could experience the magic of Phil's prediction virtually by watching from their homes while prioritizing everyone's health and safety."

The story of the holiday tradition declares that if the groundhog emerges early on the morning of February 2 and sees his shadow, we will have six more weeks of winter weather. Should he not see his shadow, we will have an early spring. The annual event began in 1886, when a spirited group of groundhog hunters dubbed themselves "The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club" and proclaimed Punxsutawney Phil to be the one and only weather prognosticating groundhog.

Last year's event attracted more than 30,000 visitors to Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, located about 80 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. This year's virtual event—a first for the one-of-a-kind tradition—featured live demonstrations, holiday recipes, themed playlists, social media giveaways, and a [live stream](#) of Phil's prognostication.

"Punxsutawney Phil's prognostication is a tradition we are proud to share with the world each year," said Groundhog Club Inner Circle President Jeff Lundy. "Seeing America's furriest weather predictor extraordinaire spread joy each February directly from Punxsutawney is an honor and a privilege."

A virtual Groundhog Day is a prime example of the [Holi-stay PA](#) experiences being offered by the Pennsylvania Tourism Office on [visitPA.com](#) and corresponding social media channels.

"This year, Punxsutawney Phil and his Inner Circle kept his faithful followers safe by foregoing the in-person celebration at Gobbler's Knob. In addition to tuning in to the event online, viewers

were also able to celebrate with their own at-home festivities. Beyond Groundhog Day, our Holi-Stay PA initiative extends the holiday season in new and creative ways while prioritizing health and safety,” said Carrie Fischer Lepore, Department of Community and Economic Development Deputy Secretary of Marketing, Tourism & Film. “As we look forward to Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and holidays in between, we could all use some extra happiness this year.”

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office, under the Department of Community and Economic Development, is dedicated to inspiring travel to Pennsylvania. For more information, go to the [visitPA website](#), [sign up for the Happy Thoughts newsletter](#), and follow visitPA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and listen with us on [Spotify](#).

For more information about the Department of Community and Economic Development, visit the [DCED website](#), and be sure to stay up-to-date with all of our agency news on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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