

717/223 Area Code Overlay FAQ's

Trying to make sense of what the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay is, how it will affect you, and what steps you need to take. Click on the links below to get your questions answered. If you still have problems or have question, please give us a call at 717-849-1010.

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What is the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay?

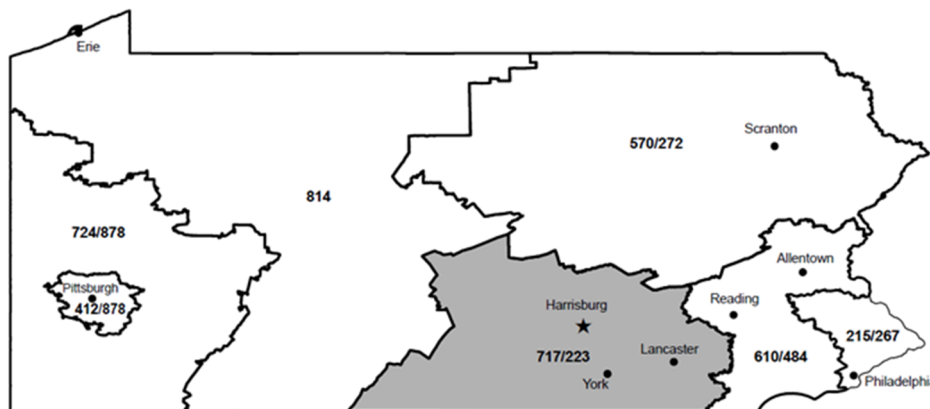
An overlay is the addition of another area code to the same geographic area as an existing area code. In Pennsylvania, the 223 area code is being added to the area served by the 717 area code to ensure a continuing supply of phone numbers.

You won't have to change your existing area code or phone number. However, because more than one area code will now serve the same geographic area, it does require you to dial or enter the area code and the 7-digit number for all calls, including calls within the same area code.

Who's affected by the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay?

Anyone who has a phone number with a 717 area code is affected, as well as anyone who receives a phone number from the 223 area code in the future. The 717 area code covers the south central portion of Pennsylvania, including communities such as: Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon & York

The 223 area code will cover the same geographic area as the 717 area code. The map below shows the 717/223 overlay area.



What's the new calling procedure for customers with a 717 or 223 area code?

The new 223 area code is being added to the geographic area served by the 717 area code. Because more than one area code will serve the same geographic area, if you have a 717 or 223 phone number, you'll need to enter the area code for all calls -- including calls within the same area code. To complete local calls from a phone with a 717 or 223 area code, the new calling procedure requires you to enter the area code and 7-digit phone number.

When will the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay calling change begin?

Beginning March 4, 2017, if you have a 717 area code, you should start entering the area code for all calls. There will be a grace period, so if you forget and enter just 7 digits during the grace period, your call will still be completed.

Beginning August 26, 2017, if you have a 717 area code, the new calling procedure will be required for all calls. On or after this date, if you don't use the new calling procedure, your call won't be completed and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

Beginning September 26, 2017, new phone lines or services may be assigned numbers with the 223 area code. If you have a 223 area code, you must enter the area code and 7-digit phone number on all calls or the call won't be completed.

Will the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay affect my service?

No, the only change is entering the area code for all calls. Your current area code and phone number won't change. The price of a call, your plan and coverage area, and other rates and services won't change because of the overlay. All local calls will remain local, regardless of the number of digits entered.

What will I need to do to prepare for the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay?

In addition to entering the area code and phone number for all calls, you should also complete the following items: Update any pre-programmed 7-digit phone numbers in your mobile device to include the area code, as well as any text or email alert services, and any call forwarding services.

Re-program all services and devices that use a 7-digit phone number to include the area code, including automatic dialing equipment. Examples include: Life safety systems and medical monitoring devices, Fire or burglar alarm and security systems, Security gates, Speed dialers, Call forwarding settings, Fax machines, Voicemail services and similar functions. Check your websites, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, contact information, personal or pet ID tags, and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same after the Pennsylvania 717/223 area code overlay is implemented?

- Your phone number, including current area code
- The price of a call, coverage area or other rates and services
- Calls that are considered local now will remain local calls, regardless of the number of digits entered
- 911 calls aren't affected, only 3 digits are required

If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 are currently available in your community, you'll still be able to call them by entering just 3 digits

Where can I find more information about the Pennsylvania 717 / 223 area code overlay?

If you have any questions about the 717/223 area code overlay, please contact us at (800) 922-0204. Visit the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission site to learn more.

Your phone system might already be programmed to support the new dial pattern. To test simply dial a local phone using the 10-digit number (i.e. 717-849-1010). If this call will not complete, please call BIG for assistance at 849-1010.

[Information courtesy of](#)

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