



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986
Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • www.ccao.org

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

January 5, 2021

TO: ALL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY EXECUTIVES, COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS,
COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS AND COUNTY CLERKS

FROM: CHERYL SUBLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RACHEL MASSOUD, POLICY ANALYST
ADAM SCHWIEBERT, POLICY ANALYST

RE: JANUARY 5, 2021 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [OBM Ideas on How to Use Coronavirus Relief Funding](#)
3. [OBM CARES Act Funds Guidance 11.20.2020](#)
4. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
5. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
6. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 10.19.2020](#)
7. [CAB: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Public Employees](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine Press Conference

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine discussed Ohio's ongoing COVID-19 vaccination program. As of Sunday, 61% of nursing homes have received the first visit for the vaccines. 3 visits to each nursing home. The first visit is to administer vaccine dose 1. The second visit is to administer the second dose to those who received the first dose prior, and to administer first doses to those who wish. The third visit is to administer the second round of dose 2.

There are roughly 1 million people in [Phase 1A](#), though not all want to get vaccinated. The administration hopes to start Phase 1B in approximately 2 weeks, depending on the number of vaccines available to Ohio. Some of Phase 1A will continue after Phase 1B begins. [Phase 1B](#) has approximately 2.2 million people (Ohioans 65 and older, severe, congenital, developmental or early-onset medical disorders, K-12 teachers and staff). The administration is still working on the details for how they plan to administer Phase 1B.

Dr. Vanderhoff discussed the UK Variant (B117) of the COVID-19 virus, which is in the United States. Dr. Vanderhoff states that this variant is more contagious. It does not seem to be more severe or affect those who have immunity. Its appearance reinforces the importance of safety measures including wearing masks, social distancing, avoiding crowds, washing hands frequently, and getting the vaccination when it's your turn.



Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebco.org



Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#) is live. For more information about Ohio's COVID-19 vaccination program, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](#). Key resources include [COVID-19 vaccine frequently asked questions](#) and a [Phase 1A vaccine distribution fact sheet](#).

There were 7,580 new COVID-19 cases reported today. Additionally, there were 538 additional hospitalizations and 44 additional ICU admissions in the past 24 hours. To view the latest COVID-19 data, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](#).

A video of the governor's January 5th press conference can be found [here](#). Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](#).

CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds Spending Deadline Extended to December 31, 2021

The deadline to expend CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) has been extended to December 31, 2021 for all local subdivisions. CCAO sent two legislative alerts last week regarding this extension which you can find [here](#).

On December 27, 2020 President Trump signed H.R. 133, which along with providing federal appropriations and additional coronavirus aid also extended the deadline by which CRF funds can be utilized until December 31, 2021. This change was made to allow state and local governments additional time to use these funds for coronavirus relief purposes. However, for 83 Ohio counties which did not receive a direct CRF distribution from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, state statutory deadlines needed to be extended in order to utilize this additional time.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 310 into law on December 29, 2020. Senate Bill 310's enactment allowed the state Controlling Board to extend the deadlines for usage and return of unspent CRF. These deadlines had previously been December 30, 2020 and February 1, 2021, respectively. Following SB 310's signing, the state Controlling Board met December 30, 2020 and approved the extension of the deadline to incur CRF expenses to December 31, 2021. Similarly, the Controlling Board also extended the date by which local governments must pay unexpended CRF to the state treasury to December 31, 2021.

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) plans to update its guidance and FAQs accordingly ([resource page link here](#)) as soon as the US Treasury updates its guidance. Please note the reporting of CRF activity due January 6, 2021 for the period October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 remains in effect.

We hope this additional time is beneficial to those counties with remaining relief funds. Questions about extensions of CARES Act deadlines can be directed to CCAO Policy Analyst [Adam Schwiebert](#) or CCAO Senior Policy Analyst [Jon Honeck](#).

Ohio BWC announces a 10 percent average rate reduction for public employers

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) announced a 10 percent average rate reduction for public employers that went into effect January 1st. To read more, click [here](#).

Upcoming CCAO Webinar – Federal Policy Developments and their Impacts on Public Employers in 2021 – January 15

CCAO will host a webinar titled "Federal Policy Developments and their Impacts on Public Employers in 2021" on **Friday, January 15, 2021 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** This webinar will review employment and HR policy challenges that arise from the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the passage of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Counties will be faced with decisions about whether to require certain employees to receive a vaccine, and how to manage COVID-related personnel issues with the expiration of paid employment leave and temporary FMLA provisions from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

(FFCRA). The webinar will also review the impact of federal law changes on unemployment compensation policy.

PRESENTER: Marc A. Fishel, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP

Click [here](#) to register for this timely educational opportunity. If you are unable to register to the link above, please email Nedra Benson, nbenson@ccao.org, CCAO administrative professional, and provide her with your email address.

Ohio Jobless Claims for Sunday, December 20, through Saturday, December 26, 2020

Ohioans filed 28,790 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported to the U.S. Department of Labor today. This was 245,425 fewer than – or about 10% of – the peak earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

White House National COVID-19 Briefing Call Registration – January 6

Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Call-In Registration: [CLICK HERE](#) (If you have previously registered for this call, you do not need to re-register)

Note: Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received. You must register to join the call.

CCAO CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund survey sent to CCAO members

CCAO sent a CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund online survey to county commissioners, county executives, county council members, clerks and administrators today. The goal is to understand the programs and services supported with CRF resources. Please check your inbox for the survey link. We ask that you please complete the survey by January 6th. If you have questions, please contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org.

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Henderson Weekly Call Notes 1/4](#)

[Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)

[Public Health Advisory System Map and Resources](#)

[Ohio COVID-19 Travel Advisory Information](#)

[Current Information Regarding Reopening](#)

[Editable #InThisTogetherOhio Logo](#)

[NACo COVID-19 webpage](#)

Visit <https://ccao.org/resources/coronavirus-updates/> for updates, FAQs and previous memos. Current information from the Ohio Department of Health can be found at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. If you want to help Ohio's response to this pandemic, you can contact the state at together@governor.ohio.gov. If you have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at rmassoud@ccao.org.