



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

October 1, 2020

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: OCTOBER 1, 2020 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 8.28.2020](#)
4. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
5. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
6. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 9.2.2020](#)
7. [CAB: Employees Returning to Work FAQs](#)
8. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law 7.15.2020](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's Press Conference

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted talked with Dr. Abby Norris-Turner of the Ohio State University regarding antibodies testing that was conducted on behalf of the Ohio Department of Health. Information about this study will be available on the dashboard at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

The administration released this week's [Public Health Advisory System](#) map. There are eleven Red Level 3 counties (newly Red in bold): Ashland, Butler, **Clermont**, **Hamilton**, Mercer, Montgomery, **Muskingum**, Pike, Putnam, **Richland** and Scioto. Richland County has a star, indicating it is approaching a Purple Level 4. Delaware and Stark counties moved from Red Level 3 to Orange Level 2.

A copy of the statewide map can be found [here](#). The state's Public Health Advisory System website now includes an interactive map detailing indicators in each county, which you can find [here](#). A county by county list of indicators for the week can be found [here](#). A chart of case rates by county can be found [here](#).

There was an increase of 1,327 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



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A video of the governor's October 1st press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

Gov. DeWine signs HB 614

Gov. DeWine signed [House Bill 614](#) into law today, which will distribute \$650 million in CARES Act funds to Ohio local governments on a per capita basis. The bill includes an emergency clause and is effective upon signature from the governor. The Office of Budget and Management is prepared to distribute the funds to local governments soon. A spreadsheet of estimated distributions to local government entities from HB 614 can be accessed [here](#).

As you will recall, approximately \$650 million in federal CARES funds remains undistributed to local governments. The General Assembly and State Controlling Board have previously distributed \$525 million of CARES funds through actions earlier this year. As a reminder, these funds are distributed to Ohio local governments which did not receive a direct disbursement from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

HB 614 includes the following appreciated changes to HB 481 timelines, redistribution process and other components:

- Clarifies that a local government does not need to adopt a resolution or ordinance to accept the HB 614 funds if a resolution has already been adopted pursuant to HB 481.
- Delays the date by which local governments are to send unencumbered CARES Act funds to the county treasury from October 15, 2020 to November 20, 2020.
- Requires the county auditor to redistribute unencumbered CARES Act funds to eligible local governments by November 25, 2020. This effectively reduces the turnaround time by two days.
- Utilizes most recent census estimates published by ODSA in place of 2010 decennial census data as part of redistribution calculations.
- Increases from 25% to 50% the share of redistribution funds sent to the county (assuming the county encumbers all its funds) if fewer than 25% of townships and municipalities do not encumber all their available CARES Act funds prior to the Nov. 20 deadline. This amendment has the effect of ensuring the counties that qualify receive a more balanced redistribution should few local governments in a county fully utilize their funds.
- Clarifies how municipalities spanning multiple counties are to return unspent funds to the county treasury.
- Delays the date by which local governments must return unspent funds to the state from December 28, 2020 to February 1, 2021. The amendment reiterates that these funds may only be utilized for pandemic-related costs incurred no later than December 30, 2020. The extension is to aid in accounting purposes only.

As always, CCAO continues to serve as a resource on how counties can utilize their CARES Act funds. Please visit our CARES Act fund resources [webpage](#) and direct your questions to CCAO Senior Policy Analyst [Jon Honeck](#). Please feel free to direct questions regarding HB 614 to CCAO Policy Analyst [Adam Schwiebert](#).

Upcoming CCAO Briefing Call with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown – October 8th at 3:00 p.m.

CCAO invites you to join a conference call with Senator Sherrod Brown on Thursday, October 8th at 3:00 pm. Senator Brown will provide a brief update on efforts to negotiate the next federal legislative package to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He would like to hear your thoughts regarding what should be prioritized in the legislation and welcomes your questions and feedback as county leaders. Conference line information is as follows:

Thursday, October 8, 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Conference Line: 877-273-4202

PIN: 889-229-624#

As a reminder, participants on the call will be muted. Participants may text their questions to CCAO Policy Analyst Rachel Massoud, 513-543-3723.

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

Ohioans filed 17,944 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported to the U.S. Dept. of Labor today. This was 256,271 fewer than – or about 6.5% of – the peak earlier this year. Ohioans filed 301,274 continued jobless claims last week, which was 475,028 fewer than – or less than half (about 38.8%) of – the peak earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

Request for counties to share CARES Act spending plans with CCAO policy team

With CARES Act funds being distributed to local governments across the state, counties have a number of options for how they may utilize their funds. As your county decides how to spend its CARES Act funds, please share your ideas with the CCAO policy team. Your ideas can serve as valuable examples to other counties considering different funding options. Please send any resolutions or spending plans to Jon Honeck at jhoneck@ccao.org.

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Hall Weekly Call Notes 9.30.2020](#)

[Updated ODJFS FAQs 9.30.2020](#)

[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.