



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

October 29, 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 29, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [Important Deadlines for CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds](#)
3. [OBM Ideas on How to Use Coronavirus Relief Funding](#)
4. [OBM CARES Act Funds Guidance 10.1.2020](#)
5. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
6. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
7. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 10.19.2020](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's Press Conference: Governor calls on each county to form a COVID Defense Team

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine called on leaders in each county to form, if they have not already, a COVID Defense Team that includes the county commissioners or county council members and county executive, mayors, health commissioner, local hospital leaders, business leaders, religious leaders and other local leaders, if they have not already. The governor acknowledged that many counties already have such groups or similar groups established. He is asking the COVID Defense Teams to assess their county's situation, inventory assets, and focus on what steps are needed to turn this around. The governor noted that it is crucial for the Defense Team to explain to the people in their community what is happening and what steps must be taken to slow the spread of the virus.

Gov. DeWine and his team have been meeting with counties that are high incidence and have the highest number of cases. As of today, they have met with Allen, Auglaize, Clark, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Holmes, Mercer and Putnam counties. They plan to continue meeting with more counties starting with the highest incidence and working their way through the list. 83 of the 88 counties are currently high incidence.

The administration released this week's [Public Health Advisory System](#) map. There are 43 Red Level 3 counties (newly Red in bold): Adams, Allen, **Ashtabula**, **Auglaize**, Butler, Clark, **Clermont**, Crawford, Cuyahoga, **Defiance**, Fayette, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Lake,



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Lawrence, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Montgomery, Muskingum, Ottawa, Pike, Portage, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Stark, Summit, **Trumbull**, Tuscarawas, Union, Wayne and Warren. No counties are on the “watch list” for Purple Level 4 this week.

78 percent of Ohioans are living in a Red Level 3 county. Only two counties are Yellow Level 1 this week.

The state’s Public Health Advisory System website 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 3,590 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday’s data. There were 194 new hospitalizations reported in the last 24 hours. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor’s October 29th press conference can be found [here](#). There will not be a press conference on Tuesday due to Election Day. **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

State Small Business Relief Grant Program

The state’s grant program for small businesses impacted by COVID will begin accepting applications on November 2nd on the Ohio Development Services website, www.businesshelp.ohio.gov. A business must have at least one but no more than 25 Ohio employees and must earn at least 90% of its revenue from Ohio. Businesses that received grants from a county program are also eligible to apply to the state, but the funds must be used to cover different costs. Program rules allow the following eligible costs:

- Personal protective equipment to protect employees, customers, or clients from COVID-19.
- Measures taken to protect employees, customers, or clients from COVID-19.
- Mortgage or rent payments for business premises (personal residences explicitly excluded).
- Utility payments (excludes utilities for personal residences and cellular phones not used primarily for business purposes).
- Salaries, wages, or compensation paid to contractors or employees, including an employer’s share of health insurance costs.
- Business supplies or equipment.

More program rules, including a list of types of businesses that are ineligible, are available at the [website](#). Bars and restaurants are eligible to apply to this program and to the [Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund](#).

Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-600-8900.

Gov. DeWine Requests BWC Send \$5 Billion Dividend to Ohio Employers

Yesterday, Gov. DeWine requested that the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) send up to \$5 billion in dividends to Ohio employers. The \$5 billion dividend would be BWC’s third dividend of more than \$1 billion this year, and the largest one-time dividend ever issued by the BWC. BWC distributed \$1.54 billion in April and \$1.34 billion in October. The BWC Board of Directors is tentatively scheduled to consider the request during a special meeting on Monday, November 2nd.

Counties can estimate their dividend by finding their October dividend on the document at [this link](#) and then multiplying it by 3.72. To read the governor’s news release on this request, click [here](#).

Ohio Jobless Claims for the past two weeks

Please note the Editor's Note included in the report links below.

Ohio Jobless Claims for Sunday, October 18, through Saturday, October 24, 2020

Ohioans filed 17,531 initial jobless claims last week. This was 256,684 fewer than – or about 6% of – the peak earlier this year. The total number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last 32 weeks (1,807,545) was more than the combined total of those filed during the last four years. Ohioans filed 266,208 continued jobless claims last week, which was 510,094 fewer than – or less than half (about 34%) of – the peak earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

Ohio Jobless Claims for Sunday, October 11, through Saturday, October 17, 2020

Ohioans filed 17,598 initial jobless claims the week of Oct. 11-17. This was 256,617 fewer than – or less than 7% of – the peak earlier this year. The total number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last 31 weeks (1,790,014) was more than the combined total of those filed during the last four years. Ohioans filed 275,160 continued jobless claims the week of Oct. 11-17, which was 501,142 fewer than – or less than half (about 35%) 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.

Coronavirus Relief Fund: Important Deadlines

The below chart highlights key deadlines regarding CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars between October 2020 and February 2021. To view a pdf version of this chart, click [here](#).

| CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND: IMPORTANT DEADLINES | |
|---|--|
| DATE | ACTIVITY |
| October 20, 2020 | First Interim Financial Report due to OBM via the grants portal for activity through 9/30/2020 |
| October 30, 2020 | County Auditor must report initial HB 614 distribution to OBM |
| November 20, 2020 | Unencumbered Funds must be returned to the County Auditor |
| November 25, 2020 | County Auditor must redistribute unencumbered funds |
| December 1, 2020 | County Auditor must report November redistribution amounts to OBM |

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|--|--|
| December 30, 2020 | Final Date to incur eligible CRF costs (grant “covered period” extends from 3/1/2020 to 12/30/2020) |
| January 6, 2021 | Second Interim Financial Report due to OBM for activity from 10/1/2020 through 12/31/2020 |
| February 1, 2021 | Remaining unspent funds must be returned to OBM |
| February 10, 2021 | Final (Close-out) Financial report due to OBM covering grant liquidation activities that occurred between 1/1/2021 and 1/31/2021 |
| <p>Note: This table is intended as guidance for counties that received CRF resources from the State of Ohio through HB 481 and HB 614. Five counties that received direct US Treasury Funding are considered prime recipients and must report to Treasury rather than OBM.</p> | |

Other Resources

[Updated ODJFS Q&A Document 10.28.2020](#)

[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.