



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

December 10, 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: DECEMBER 10, 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 11.20.2020](#)
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 Press Conference: Curfew extended to January 2nd; Stay Safe Ohio Protocols issued for holiday season

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced an extension of the current Ohio Department of Health (ODH) 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew until January 2, 2021. The original order can be found [here](#). No religious services, such as midnight mass, will be impacted by this curfew. ODH will issue a variance for the curfew for four specific sporting events planned in the next three weeks that are unable to change their start times due to national television contracts: Columbus Crew MLS championship game; Browns and Bengals Monday night football games; and the potential University of Cincinnati conference championship football game.

Gov. DeWine and ODH Chief Medical Officer Vanderhoff stressed that the next 21 days of this pandemic will be crucial. They have growing concerns over ICU capacity and the percentage of ICU patients that have COVID-19. Twelve health professionals joined them to introduce 10 "Stay Safe Ohio Protocols" that ODH will issue today:

1. Stay at Home.
2. Wear your mask.
3. Keep interactions short and stay apart.
4. Wash your hands.



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5. Work from home.
6. Celebrate safe. Celebrate small.
7. Don't eat or drink with anyone outside of your household.
8. Limit travel.
9. Keep weddings and funerals safe.
10. Enjoy safe holiday activities.

The administration released this week's [Public Health Advisory System](#) map. There are five Purple Level 4 counties this week and 78 Red Level 3 counties. There are no Yellow Level 1 counties. Every county in the state of Ohio continues to be a high incidence county.

Purple Level 4 counties this week: Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark and Summit.

“Watch list” for Purple Level 4: Ashland and Guernsey.

Red Level 3 this week: Adams, Allen, Ashland*, Ashtabula, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey*, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Highland, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Lake, Licking, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Paulding, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Ross, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Shelby, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Union, Van Wert, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Williams and Wood.

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 were 11,738 new COVID-19 cases reported today. Additionally, there were 452 additional hospitalizations and 31 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 December 10th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Monday, December 14th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

Update on Federal COVID-19 Relief Legislation

Discussions are continuing in Washington, D.C. over the next round of COVID relief legislation. Several new proposals have been put forward recently. On Tuesday, the White House released a proposal for a \$916 billion package that would include \$160 billion for state and local government financial assistance. This same amount for states and local governments was included in the bipartisan proposal released by eight Senators last week. (Details of the Senate “Gang of Eight” approach can be found [here](#)). Neither proposal contains details on the state and local distribution formulas or method. NACo has informed us that even with these plans, state and local assistance remains VERY FRAGILE and unfortunately tied to bargaining about COVID liability protections for businesses, unemployment insurance, and stimulus checks for individuals.

NACo is urging members to take action – Please urge your House and Senate members to support:

- a. An overall aid package for state and local governments, especially county governments

- b. Direct, flexible aid for *ALL* county governments (If money is distributed through the states, NACo is asking for a 15-day period for the state to suballocate to counties, based on population, with no additional state mandates or policy add-ons).
- c. Extension of the deadline for CARES Act funding into 2021.

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

Deadline Approaching for Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund Grants; Commissioners Asked to Help with Local Outreach

As you know, the hospitality industry has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. To try and help the industry, Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted and the General Assembly set aside approximately \$38.7 million in CARES Act dollars to assist bars, restaurants, and other businesses with on-premise liquor permits. A Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund was established with a \$2,500 grant available to each and every on-premise permit location in Ohio. This fund is not competitive, so if a permit holder is eligible, they will receive a \$2,500 payment. If an owner has more than one business location, each location is eligible for its own \$2,500.

However, businesses must apply for the grant by December 30, 2020. Funds cannot be distributed after December 31, 2020

In just the last week, so many commissioners, economic development officials, and their staffs made an extraordinary push to make sure all these businesses in their counties were aware and taking advantage of this opportunity. The Administration greatly appreciates your efforts! Here are links to a [one-pager](#) and a [FAQs](#) on the grants. Sample social media posts are available [here](#) and a social media graphic from the administration can be found [here](#). **If you would like a list of establishments who have not yet applied for this grant in your county, please don't hesitate to contact Josh Hahn, Assistant Director with the Ohio Department of Commerce, at Joshua.hahn@com.ohio.gov or 614-312-9719.**

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Resources

The administration has added a page on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website with resources about the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Key resources include [COVID-19 vaccine frequently asked questions](#) and a [Phase 1A vaccine distribution fact sheet](#). As more information about Ohio's vaccination program becomes available, this webpage will be updated.

State Revenues Exceed November Estimates

According to preliminary tax revenue figures from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (accessible [here](#)), tax collections in November exceeded estimates by 2.3 percent, or \$46.3 million. For the fiscal year, revenues are ahead of estimates by 3.8 percent or \$393.5 million.

The sales tax, a key revenue source for county government, beat estimates by nearly \$40 million. Non-auto sales tax performed 3.1 percent above estimate while auto sales tax came in 11.5 percent over estimate.

Commenting on the latest revenue figures, OBM Director Kim Murnieks stated, "OBM continues to monitor economic indicators. It is clear that the course of our economic recovery is tied to beating the global COVID pandemic and Ohioans must be vigilant. Healthy people are crucial to a vibrant economy."

Preliminary Non-Auto County Sales Tax Estimates sent to CCAO members on Tuesday

Preliminary non-auto sales tax estimates from the Ohio Department of Taxation for October sales were emailed to CCAO members on Tuesday. Please keep an eye out for this information.

Ohio Jobless Claims for Sunday, November 29, through Saturday, December 5, 2020

Ohioans filed 36,327 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 237,888 fewer than – or about 13% of – the peak earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

Coalition Communication Fact Sheets

The administration created “coalitions communications” fact sheets to aid different groups in communicating with their constituencies about the coronavirus. The documents include helpful talking points, sample social media posts, resources, updated COVID-19 data and more.

Each fact sheet has a designated communications point of contact who can provide support in drafting newsletters, op-eds, etc. The administration will update these documents each week.

You can find the documents at the following links: [Local Government](#), [Law Enforcement](#), [Business](#), [Agriculture](#), [Manufacturing](#), [K-12 Education](#), [Higher Education](#), [Tourism & Arts](#), [Healthcare](#), and [Faith Based Organizations](#).

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
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>	

CCAO Webinar – Community Development Block Grant: Anticipated Program Year 2021 Changes – December 16th

CCAO will offer a webinar titled “Community Development Block Grant: Anticipated Program Year 2021 Changes” on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The Ohio Development Services Agency - Office of Community Development is proposing changes to its administration of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded Community Development programs in PY 2021. The department is proposing the new structure with the goal of enabling limited resources to meet State of Ohio investment priorities in clean water and safe disposal of sanitary waste, critical basic infrastructure, and projects significantly impacting Ohio’s low- and moderate-income residents. This webinar will outline anticipated changes to OCD’s programs and provide a question and answer session for participants

The presenter will be Mary Oakley, Office of Community Development, Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA).

[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.

Other Resources

[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.