



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

December 23, 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 23, 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 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: COVID-19 Vaccination Program updates

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine shared a few more details about the state's [COVID-19 vaccination plan](#). After [Phase 1A](#), the next group of people to get the vaccine will be adults age 65 and older (about 1.8 million Ohioans) and Ohioans under age 65 with severe inherited or developmental disorders. The administration will also make vaccines available to all adults that work in schools in order to get children back to in-person schooling. The current plan is to start this phase in January, but the state is unsure of the exact timeline. With respect to schools, the goal is for any child who wants to be in school to be back in school by March 1st.

The administration shared two new visual aids to illustrate where Ohio is on key COVID-19 metrics. The first is a visualization of the incidence rate per 100,000 residents over two weeks from August to December 22nd. The second is a visualization of ICU admissions over the same time period. Dr. Vanderhoff, Chief Medical Officer for the Ohio Department of Health, urged Ohioans to follow the Stay Safe Ohio protocols over the holidays.



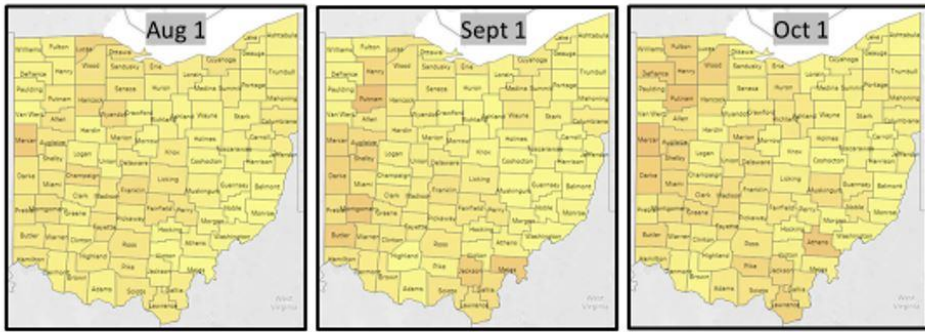
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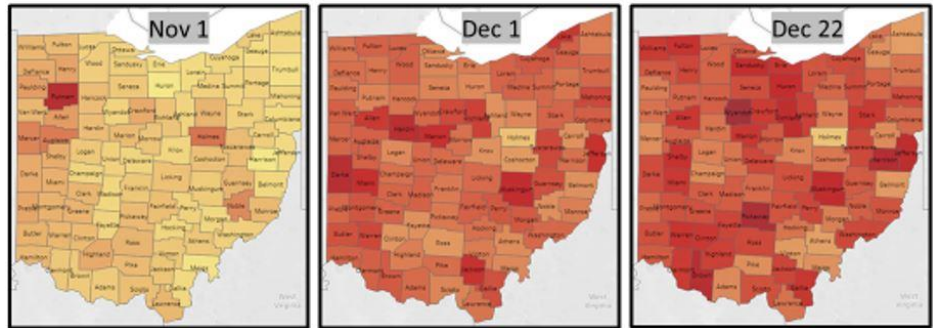
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www.cebco.org



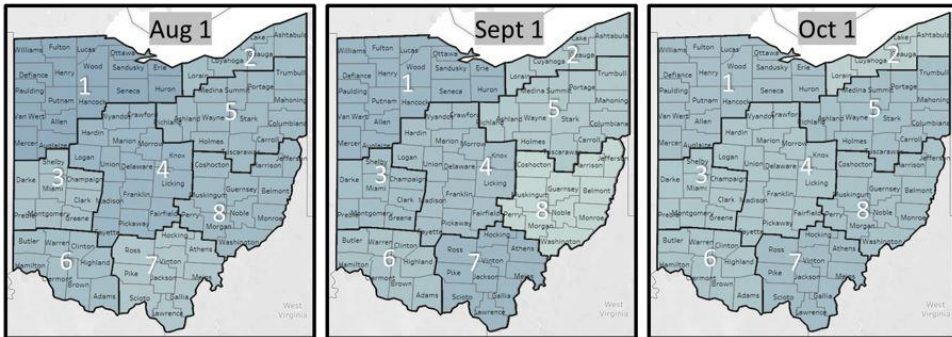
Fax: 614-221-6986
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Incidence— Cases per 100,000 Residents Over 2 Weeks

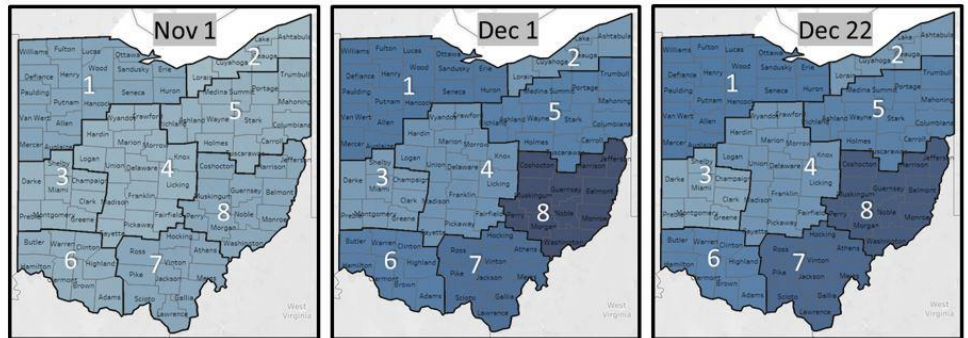


Cases per capita values are pulled from historical data as of the dates labeled, and exclude incarcerated individuals.



Regional COVID-19 ICU Utilization

COVID Patients as Percent of All ICU Patients
Weekly Averages by Hospital Preparedness Region



ICU utilization is calculated as the percentage of all ICU patients who are COVID positive, as a weekly average for each Hospital Preparedness Region.

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 7,790 new COVID-19 cases reported today. Additionally, there were 431 additional hospitalizations and 52 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 23rd press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Wednesday, December 30th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

Congress passes \$2.3 trillion legislative package

On December 21, Congress passed a \$2.3 trillion legislative package containing both appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and additional COVID-19 relief. The legislation delays the spending deadline for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) – CARES Act spending by one year to December 31, 2021. We are now awaiting potential action from President Trump to sign or veto the legislation. NACo provided an analysis of what is included in the legislation that you can read [here](#).

If President Trump signs the legislation into law, the new CRF deadline for spending needs a state law change to become effective for the 83 counties that received funding through OBM. Under the terms of Senate Bill 310 (the recently-enacted state capital budget bill), the Ohio Office of Budget and Management is permitted to ask the State Controlling Board to change deadlines from the CARES Act in order to be consistent with federal law.

The extension of the CRF deadline for the 83 counties receiving funding through OBM will require signatures by both President Trump and Gov. DeWine in the coming days in order to 1) extend federal law and then 2) extend state law. Until then, February 1, 2020 remains the OBM deadline to return unspent funds. Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org.

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 December 31st. If you have questions, please contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, 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.**

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Henderson Weekly Call Notes 12.22.2020](#)

[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.