



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

February 2, 2021

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

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

RE: FEBRUARY 2, 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 1.19.2021](#)
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

Gov. DeWine's announcements from today's press conference are summarized below.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility: Those 70 and older, teachers/school personnel necessary for in-person learning, and those in the first phase outlined [here](#) are all currently eligible for the vaccine.

Congregate Care Vaccine Update: Ohio has 920 skilled nursing facilities. As of today, the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has been given in all these facilities and the second dose has been given in 89% of those facilities. Ohio has 645 assisted living facilities. First doses have been given in 86% of these facilities and second doses in 48%.

Equity Update: The governor outlined steps that Ohio has taken and will take to address inequities in healthcare as they relate to vaccine accessibility:

- Geography
 - Instead of offering the "mega vaccination sites" being seen in other states, Ohio's vaccination plan focuses on ensuring that there are multiple vaccine providers in every county in the state.



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This week, more than 700 providers across Ohio are receiving the vaccine to help ensure that Ohioans have access to vaccine close to home.

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
 - These health centers serve highly vulnerable neighborhoods. Ohio's vaccination plan offers vaccines at these facilities for equitable distribution. More than 60 of these centers are receiving vaccine this week.
- Pop-up Vaccine Sites
 - Ohio is working with FQHCs, faith-based communities, and local health departments to pilot pop-up vaccination sites in at-risk communities. Two sites were hosted at an FQHC in Columbus last week and another pop-up vaccination site is scheduled this week in Cleveland.
- Transportation
 - The Ohio Department of Health is working with the Ohio Department of Medicaid to provide transportation options for those who want to receive the vaccine but face transportation barriers.
- Local Health Departments
 - Many local health departments are prioritizing underserved populations by partnering with organizations that work to serve African American, Hispanic and Latino, and other underserved populations to provide education and offer opportunities for vaccination when vaccine becomes available.
- Education and Communication Strategies
 - In addition to newspaper, television, and radio advertisements focused on reaching underserved populations, Ohio will also launch a series of virtual town hall meetings to gain a better understanding of the barriers to vaccination and develop solutions.
 - The events will be coordinated in partnership with Ohio's Minority Health Vaccine Advisory Group, whose mission is to help advise the Ohio Department of Health on how to best deliver the vaccine to underserved populations and better ensure equity.
 - The townhalls will be live-streamed during the week of February 22. To learn how to participate in these events, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.
- Affordable Housing Vaccination Clinics
 - Next week, the Ohio Department of Aging, in partnership with key state and local organizations, will offer on-site vaccination clinics at affordable senior housing communities as part of its Regional Rapid Response Program.
 - On-site clinics will be coordinated with support from the Ohio National Guard.

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#) is live. Information about which providers are currently giving vaccinations in each county can be found at vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov. For more information about Ohio's COVID-19 vaccination program, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov. The state's communications toolkit for the vaccination program can be found [here](#). NACo provided a communications toolkit as well that can be found [here](#).

There were 3,657 new COVID-19 cases reported today. Additionally, there were 221 additional hospitalizations and 21 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 February 2nd press conference can be found [here](#). Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

CCAO Call/Q&A with Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted and ODH Senior Deputy Director Himes

Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted invite CCAO members to join them for a call/Q&A session regarding Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program on **Friday, February 5th from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.** Ohio Department of Health Senior Deputy Director Lance Himes will also be on the call. **CCAO members will have the opportunity to ask the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Senior Deputy Director questions** that they have about vaccinations and the program rollout. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

The link for the meeting is below.

Friday, February 5th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

<https://ohio.webex.com/ohio/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee33c461be48ad61679d3076382104256>

+1-408-418-9388

Access code: 179 977 7014##

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Massoud at rmassoud@ccao.org or 513-543-3723.

FEMA Cost Share Waiver

Today, the Biden Administration issued a new executive memo that waives the 25% non-federal share for FEMA Category B public assistance related to the COVID national emergency. It includes specific retroactive eligibility from January 20, 2020 (start of the Stafford Act declarations for COVID) through January 20, 2021. This has been a major ask of NACo and its partner state and local government associations for many months.

Below are two recent presidential memos that deal with the FEMA costs share and the FEMA eligibility criteria:

[Memorandum](#) on Maximizing Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Feb. 2, 2021)

[Memorandum](#) to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States (Jan. 21, 2021)

ODJFS Creates Online Portal for Employers to Report Unemployment Identity Theft

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has created a [new online portal](#) that provides a direct way for employers to notify the agency if they believe their employees' personal information was compromised and used to file fraudulent unemployment claims. Identity Theft and 1099 Resources for Employers can be found [here](#). The online portal for employers can be found [here](#). For more information, visit unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov.

ODJFS Creates New Hotline for Victims of Unemployment Identity Theft

ODJFS has established a new toll-free number for individuals to notify the agency if they believe their personal information was compromised and used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim: (833) 658-0394. This number is staffed by 50 dedicated, cross-trained customer service representatives, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. One way victims have been discovering identity theft is by receiving an IRS 1099-G form for unemployment benefits that were never received. To read more, click [here](#).

OBM Reporting Timelines for CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds

Reporting (updated January 19, 2021)

OBM will require reporting in the OBM grants portal. The Grant Contact listed on the registration will be provided a log-in to access and complete the financial status reports. Here is the following table of reporting periods and due dates:

Reporting Cycle	Reporting Period	Due Date
Cycle 1 & 2	March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020	October 20, 2020
Cycle 3	October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	January 6, 2021
Cycle 4	January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021	April 6, 2021
Cycle 5	April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021	July 6, 2021
Cycle 6	July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021	October 6, 2021
Cycle 7	October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021	January 5, 2022

Any cash on hand reported on the cycle 7 report due on January 5, 2022 must be returned to OBM no later than December 31, 2021.

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Henderson Weekly Call Notes 2.1.2021](#)

[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.