



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**March 19, 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:** MARCH 19, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

### **Gov. DeWine Press Conference**

Today, Gov. DeWine held another press conference regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Ohio now has 119 confirmed cases in 24 counties.

During the press conference, Chief Justice O'Connor made it clear that the courts in Ohio are open and have the capacity to manage their court docket with flexibility. It is important to note that she expects all clerk of courts offices to remain open, but that does not suggest that reasonable restrictions on public access are not permitted. The key announcement from the Chief is that the Supreme Court, from its current budget, has reallocated \$4 million that will be available to courts as grants to acquire video conferencing equipment to utilize for arraignments, pretrial, probation/parole and other conferencing needs. The application and guidance may be available as early as tomorrow. Her other significant comment was that she believes the trial courts have statutory authority under ORC 2945.72 to extend the constitutionally guaranteed right to a speedy trial through a continuance based upon reasonable grounds.

A video of the governor's March 19<sup>th</sup> press conference can be found [here](#). The administration plans to continue daily press briefings at 2 pm. Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **Secretary of State LaRose on CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO Briefing Call**

Secretary of State Frank LaRose joined the CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO briefing call today to discuss Ohio's primary election. On the call, Secretary LaRose's comments were consistent with [the directive](#) he issued earlier this week. The secretary intends to send absentee ballot requests to all the registered Ohio voters who have not already voted. He intends to seek the funding for this endeavor, including prepaid postage, from the General Assembly. If an Ohioan has already voted, they will not be permitted to vote again. One commissioner asked if the deadline to register to vote will be extended and the secretary responded that it cannot because voting is already taking place and the statutory date of the election has not changed. The secretary intends to continue these discussions with the governor and the General Assembly. CCAO anticipates the details will be ironed out next week.

### **CORSA Risk Control Service Bulletin on Employee Temperatures**



Fax: 614-220-0209  
[www.corsa.org](http://www.corsa.org)



Fax: 614-229-4588  
[www.cebco.org](http://www.cebco.org)



Fax: 614-221-6986  
[www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

CORSA released a Risk Control Service Bulletin regarding employers taking employees' temperatures following the governor's comments during yesterday's press conference. Read this important document [here](#).

**REMINDER: OCCO Webinar TOMORROW March 20<sup>th</sup> on COVID-19 and Employment Law issues**

OCCO is offering a webinar tomorrow, Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. on employment law issues relating to COVID-19. COVID-19 is and will be a major disruption to employers. This webinar will address ADA, FMLA, overtime laws, union contracts, and human resources issues and will provide guidance to employers on how to respond and to prepare for the current and anticipated issues. The webinar will be presented by Jonathan Downes, Attorney, Zashin & Rich.

[Click here](#) to register for this timely educational opportunity. If you are unable to register to the link above, please email [Nedra Benson \(nbenson@ccao.org\)](mailto:nbenson@ccao.org) CCAO administrative professional, and provide her with your email address.

**DAS Cooperative Purchasing Program – Requirements Postponed**

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services has announced that it is temporarily suspending the administrative fee for the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program. The program allows local governments and public entities access to a variety of goods and services from participating State contracts. The requirement to pass and submit a resolution is also postponed. Current members are advised to check their program renewal dates. If membership expires in the next several months, please contact DAS and your membership will be renewed immediately, postponing the payment.

For more information about the program, please see this [brochure](#).

**DAS contact information:**

Renee Hinte or Maureen Studer  
State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program  
Office of Procurement Services  
General Services Division  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services  
[renee.hinte@das.ohio.gov](mailto:renee.hinte@das.ohio.gov) 1-614-466-6530, [maureen.studer@das.ohio.gov](mailto:maureen.studer@das.ohio.gov) 1-614-728-3723.

**County Talk**

Issues we're currently hearing about from across the counties:

**Budget Reductions:** Some counties are taking steps toward reducing county expenditures due to anticipated revenue reductions following the COVID-19 pandemic. Cost reduction measures such as capital expenditure delays, hiring freezes, salary freezes and departmental discretionary spending reductions are anticipated. Read how Stark County is already addressing its 2020 finances [here](#).

**Ohio State University Extension offices across Ohio implement teleworking for staff until further notice**

OSU Extension announced that it has implemented teleworking or its staff across the state until further notice. Please see [this news release](#) for details.

**CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO Bi-weekly COVID-19 Briefing Call**

CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO will host a biweekly COVID-19 briefing call for members every Monday and Thursday at 3:30 p.m. The next call will be Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The call-in information is as follows:

**Dial 1-877-273-4202**  
**Access code 889-229-624**

These calls will serve as a way for us to share information and answer questions from counties, as well as provide a space for our members to discuss their best practices if they wish. If you know you have a question that you would like answered, please send it to Adam Schwiebert ([aschwiebert@ccao.org](mailto:aschwiebert@ccao.org)) in advance to give staff some time to research the answer.

### **Other Resources**

Visit <https://ccao.org/resources/coronavirus-updates/> for updates, FAQs and previous memos. As a reminder, current information from the Ohio Department of Health can be found at [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov). If you have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Adam Schwiebert, policy analyst, at [aschwiebert@ccao.org](mailto:aschwiebert@ccao.org), or Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at [rmassoud@ccao.org](mailto:rmassoud@ccao.org).