



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

April 15, 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: APRIL 15, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CAB: Virtual Meetings during COVID-19](#)
2. [Emergency Declarations FAQ](#)
3. [CAB: COVID-19 Employment Related FAQs](#)
4. [Dispute Resolution Commission Process](#)
5. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Press Conference

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton announced that Ohio now has 7,791 confirmed cases. There have been 361 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

The governor announced an expansion of Ohio's partnership with Battelle to extend their sanitization services to law enforcement agencies and EMS providers in Ohio. Beginning this Friday, local law enforcement agencies and EMS agencies can bring their packaged N-95 masks to any Ohio State Highway Patrol post in the state. The patrol will then bring those masks to Battelle here in Columbus. Battelle will sanitize them. The Patrol will bring the masks back to each post, and agencies can then come back and pick them up.

The administration is asking for help from the manufacturing community. They encourage manufacturers to visit <https://repurposingproject.com/> to see what the state needs help providing and for more information.

If you want to help Ohio's response to this pandemic, you can contact the state at together@governor.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's April 15th press conference can be found [here](#). The administration plans to hold daily press conferences at 2 p.m. Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.



Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebco.org



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Register for Webinar with Auditor of State Keith Faber Friday, April 17 at 10 a.m.

Auditor of State Keith Faber is hosting a webinar for CCAO Members on Friday, April 17 at 10 a.m. on Managing Local Government Finances in an Emergency: Preparing for revenue disruptions as a result of the COVID pandemic.

In order to participate in the webinar, please register at the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5007598571605867789>

In the event that you do not receive a confirmation email with instructions to join the webinar, you can enter by visiting GoToWebinar.com, click "join" in the upper right hand corner, and enter the 9-digit webinar ID (243-820-235), name and email.

Reducing County Elected Officials' Salaries during Budget Reductions

We have been receiving questions in recent days about county elected officials reducing their compensation as county revenues tighten in the coming weeks. We are providing the following information to help guide members should these questions arise in your county.

As counties consider budget reductions, some county elected officials have considered returning or reducing their statutory salaries to aid in cost reduction efforts. It is important to remember that this is the voluntary choice of individual elected officials alone. Commissioners cannot order the reduction of other county elected officials' salaries.

If they wish to reduce or return their compensation, county officials have two options. Option one: they can voluntarily return all or a portion of their pay via check back to the county. Full tax withholdings and OPERS contributions would be taken out of paychecks regardless of the amount returned. Option two: county officials can notify the county auditor to reduce their compensation. The reduced salary would translate into less tax withholding and reduced OPERS contributions. Additional details regarding this process can be found in the following Attorney General [opinion](#).

CCAO is happy to answer any questions you may have on this topic.

Lt. Gov. Husted, OBM Dir. Murnieks to join CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO COVID-19 Tomorrow's Briefing Call

Starting this week, CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO will host one briefing call per week. **The calls will be on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.** The next call will be tomorrow, Thursday, April 16th at 3:30 p.m. Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Office of Budget and Management Director Kimberly Murnieks plan to join Thursday's call so long as circumstances permit. The call-in information is:

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

Our goal with these briefing calls is to provide our members with an informative and positive experience. In order to better achieve this goal and due to the volume of callers, we have decided to change the format. We ask that participants pose questions during the call by **texting** Rachel Massoud (CCAO policy analyst) at **513-543-3723**. Rachel will read the questions to our speaker(s) and state the name and title of the person who posed the question. Participants will remain muted throughout the duration of the call. We hope this format will reduce duplication, keep our calls focused and concise, and provide the best experience possible for our participants.

Ohio Development Services Agency Office of Small Business Relief

A new office has been developed within the Ohio Development Services Agency to better coordinate Ohio's efforts to identify and provide support for Ohio's nearly 950,000 small businesses. The [Office of Small Business Relief](#) will:

- Serve as the state's designated agency for administering federal recovery funds awarded to Ohio for small business support and recovery;
- Work with federal, state, and local partners to evaluate and determine possible regulatory reforms that encourage employment and job creation; and
- Coordinate efforts of Ohio's Small Business Development Centers and Minority Business Assistance Centers.

More information on all resources currently available to small businesses is available at coronavirus.ohio.gov/BusinessHelp.

Federal Advocacy Alert - ACTION NEEDED TODAY

Today we received the following update from NACO:

US House and Senate leadership had a call/meeting with Sec. Mnuchin and we've learned they will now work with legislative counsel today to write text for the next federal relief package. So timing is of the essence. While the overall negotiating process could drag on for weeks, once they have the legislative text written—we could face an uphill battle.

We need help today with **your advocacy with the Ohio Congressional delegation** for direct federal funding for counties. Please call or email your member of Congress. A template for a letter from individual counties can be found [here](#).

The following are some draft tweets suggested by NACO:

Congress

- Thank you [MEMBER OF CONGRESS HANDLE] for supporting direct & flexible funding for #counties as we confront #COVID19. Counties are on the front lines: <https://www.naco.org/resources/counties-matter-covid-19>. #CountiesMatter
- #Counties ask [MEMBER OF CONGRESS HANDLE] to support direct relief funding for counties – current CDBG formula proposal is not the answer. #CountiesMatter

President Trump

[@POTUS](#) @realDonaldTrump, we urge you to support direct and flexible federal funding for counties as we respond to the #COVID19 crisis. #Counties are on the front lines of this pandemic #CountiesMatter

Sec. Mnuchin

[@USTreasury](#) Sec. @stevenmnuchin1, we urge you to support direct and flexible federal funding for counties as we respond to the #COVID19 crisis. #Counties are on the front lines of this pandemic! #CountiesMatter

Register for Friday's HR Webinar: Layoffs and Furloughs under Civil Service Law

CCAO will hold an HR webinar on Friday, April 17th at 1:00 pm. Counties and other public employers are facing revenue uncertainty as a result of the economic downturn from the Coronavirus. For most public employers, personnel costs comprise a substantial portion of expenditures. As a result, employers may need to consider temporary furloughs or other personnel measures as a means to reduce expenditures. In addition, some departments may be experiencing a reduction in the workload during the pandemic. This webinar will summarize civil service laws governing layoffs and furloughs and provide an update on other employment law issues arising from the coronavirus.

Presenter: Marc A. Fishel, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP

[Click here](#) to register for this timely educational opportunity. **The webinar is filling up quickly so be sure to register soon.** If you are unable to register to the link above, please email [Nedra Benson](mailto:Nedra.Benson@ccao.org), nbenson@ccao.org, CCAO administrative professional, and provide her with your email address.

Other Resources

[Updated ODJFS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[FEMA Advisory: Purchase and Distribution of Food Eligible for Public Assistance](#)

[Department of Developmental Disabilities and JFS OWD's Hiring Campaign Partnership](#)

[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 have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Adam Schwiebert, policy analyst, at aschwiebert@ccao.org, or Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at rmassoud@ccao.org.