



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**April 16, 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 16, 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 8,414 confirmed cases. There have been 389 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

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](mailto:together@governor.ohio.gov).

A video of the governor's April 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **Gov. DeWine's Gradual Economic Reopening Plan Requires Immediate Attention of County Leaders**

Gov. DeWine announced that he hopes to start phasing businesses back into operations beginning in May. The governor stressed that he, Lt. Gov. Husted, Dir. Acton, and their team have a lot of work to do to prepare the state's economy for gradual reopening in this timeline. In reopening any business, it will be essential to provide a safe environment for employees and, thus, any business that is permitted to reopen will be required



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)

to follow safety procedures. It will be important moving forward for counties to begin to think about how they will change their operations to meet new safety standards and procedures.

The governor has been meeting with and gaining advice from a board of economic advisors comprised of major business leaders from large to small businesses across the state. Today the group provided a preliminary report of their suggestions for business operation plans.

It appears from the governor's remarks today that a business operation plan will need to address, at a minimum, monitoring the health of employees (including screening employees at the entrance and taking temperatures) and providing a safe working environment. A safe work environment includes limiting visitor access and screening at entry; regularly taking inventory to assure adequate supply of PPE equipment; enforcing appropriate social distancing; and assuring sanitizing supplies are accessible and properly used. An employer should also develop materials that give clear and concise guidance to employees about handwashing and sanitizing, wearing of masks, and social distancing. The employer will also have to demonstrate enforcement and compliance with its guidelines.

Governor DeWine indicated that the scope and speed of the reopening our economy and any adjustments made to the plan would be governed by facts associated with four major variables: hospital admissions, PPE supply, testing capacity, and new medical or scientific evidence supporting changing activity.

CCAO will continue to update our members as more information is released regarding the gradual reopening of Ohio's economy. We encourage our members to begin preparing your operations plans now.

### **Register for Tomorrow's Webinar with Auditor of State Keith Faber**

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.

### **CCAO Membership Conference Calls with U.S. Senators**

CCAO is hosting member calls with both of Ohio's senators next week to discuss federal legislation related to COVID-19:

#### **Tuesday, April 21 @ 11:00 AM – Senator Sherrod Brown**

On Tuesday, April 21, at 11 a.m., we invite you to join a call with US Senator Sherrod Brown. Senator Brown will provide a brief update on the CARES Act and efforts to negotiate a fourth federal legislative package to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He would like to hear your thoughts regarding what should be prioritized in further legislation, and welcomes your questions and feedback as county commissioners.

#### **Wednesday, April 22 @ 10:00 AM – Senator Rob Portman**

On Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m. we invite you to join a call with US Senator Rob Portman. The purpose of the call would be to discuss the CARES Act, the federal response to COVID-19 and resources available to counties. This is also an opportunity to hear the concerns and questions of counties in Ohio.

These calls will follow the same protocol as our membership calls on Thursdays. Lines will be muted except for the speakers, and members will be asked to text their questions to Policy Analyst Rachel Massoud, 513-543-3723. It is vital for our Senators to hear from you and address your concerns. Please join us for these important opportunities using the following call-in information:

**Dial in number: 1-877-273-4202**

**Room number: 889-229-624**

### **OBM's March Monthly Financial Report**

On today's CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO briefing call, OBM Director Murnieks discussed the state's March Monthly Financial Report. You can read the report [here](#).

### **Unemployment Compensation Email Consulting Services**

Through CCAO's partnership with CompManagement, counties have access to email unemployment consulting services from Sedgwick, CompManagement's parent organization. Of course, this will not compare to the full-service unemployment compensation services many counties have contracted for individually with Sedgwick, but with so many counties now considering furloughs and layoffs, CCAO wanted to make counties aware of this free service. You may email your unemployment questions to [unemployment@sedgwick.com](mailto:unemployment@sedgwick.com). Be sure to identify yourself as a public employer.

Counties may also access the Sedgwick unemployment resource site to view a recently recorded webinar on the COVID-19 impact on unemployment. In addition to the webinar, the site includes webinar slides, a brief on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and CARES Act as they relate to unemployment, and a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document.



*Go to resource site*

### **Reminder: Tomorrow's HR Webinar: Layoffs and Furloughs under Civil Service Law**

CCAO will hold an HR webinar on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm regarding layoffs and furloughs under civil service law. At this time, the webinar is at capacity. If you did not have a chance to register but are still interested in this pertinent information, the recording of the webinar along with the PowerPoint presentation will be available on CCAO's website tomorrow afternoon. **We will also distribute both the recording and the PowerPoint presentation in tomorrow's daily memo.**

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

### **CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO COVID-19 Weekly Briefing Call**

CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO are hosting a weekly briefing call during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The calls will be on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.** The next call will be tomorrow, Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m. 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.

### **Other Resources**

[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](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).