



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

April 17, 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 17, 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 9,107 cases. There have been 418 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.

A video of the governor's April 17th press conference can be found [here](#). The administration is not planning to have a press conference on Saturday or Sunday. Daily press briefings will resume on Monday at 2 p.m., unless there is a major development over the weekend. Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

Gradual Reopening Information from Gov. DeWine and President Trump

We continue to receive information about the gradual reopening of Ohio's economy. As we stated yesterday, it will be important moving forward for counties to think about how they will change their operations to meet new



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safety standards and procedures. Please review both the national and state materials that are available with respect to the gradual reopening. It is imperative that counties begin planning for this now. Part of this planning process may involve commissioners convening other county officials to collaboratively develop a countywide strategy for reopening.

Yesterday, President Trump released a [three-phased approach](#) for the gradual reopening of the country. You can read those guidelines [here](#). The plan includes criteria that each state must meet before proceeding to a phased opening, as well as guidelines for individuals and employers during each phase. The White House acknowledges that state and local officials may need to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e.g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild) and that each state will be different in its approach. Additionally, where appropriate, the White House recommends governors work on a regional basis to satisfy the criteria.

In Ohio, the administration has discussed reopening in gradual two to three week phases, due in part to the incubation period of the virus. Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted, and Dr. Acton stress that opening quickly could result in surges in Ohio's COVID-19 cases. Gov. DeWine and his administration plan to release more details as they develop their strategy for Ohio. During his press conference today, he emphasized the need to balance getting Ohioans back to work and keeping Ohioans safe simultaneously.

The goal in creating guidelines is to protect employees and customers. The governor listed several requirements that Ohio can expect to see when guidelines are released. These include following social distancing requirements; wearing masks; installing barriers where appropriate; sanitizing and cleaning surfaces frequently; requiring employees to wear gloves; providing ample opportunity to employees and customers to wash and sanitize their hands; staggering employee arrival times and lunches; checking temperatures of employees; and limiting the number of people allowed in a place of business. Additionally, employees who can work from home will continue working from home. The governor is encouraging industries to come up with best practices.

Gov. DeWine shared this graphic during his press conference:



The governor reminded everyone that after May 1, this virus will still be here and our lives will have to be guided by that.

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.

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.

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

U.S. Election Assistance Commission 4/22 Public Hearing on Election Response to COVID-19 Administering Elections During the Coronavirus Crisis

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will host a virtual hearing to discuss the administration of federal elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 22nd at 1:00 p.m. During this hearing, EAC Commissioners will hear panelists present on major considerations for expanding vote by mail options for the remaining primaries and the general election and considerations for in-person voting. Panelists will include state and local election officials, and other representatives from the elections administration field. Other considerations such as accessibility for voters with disabilities and ensuring secure elections will also be discussed.

This hearing will be open to the public. For the meeting link and other information, click [here](#).

Recording from today's HR Webinar: Layoffs and Furloughs under Civil Service Law

Thank you to everyone who joined today's HR webinar on Layoffs and Furloughs under Civil Service Law and thank you to Marc Fishel of Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP for presenting. The recording of the webinar can be found [here](#). The PowerPoint is available [here](#). The Layoffs and Job Abolishments outline that Marc referenced during his presentation is available [here](#).

County Talk: Budget Reductions and Helping Small Businesses

Budget Reductions

As counties begin to make adjustments to their budgets during the pandemic, CCAO would like to share examples of the changes counties are implementing:

[Lucas County prepares for cuts to deal with \\$30 million expected deficit](#)

[Ashtabula County Commissioners approve new estimated resources](#)

[Ottawa County Budget Letter](#)

Helping Small Businesses

Counties are having conversations about how they can help small businesses in their community that are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some examples of how counties are responding:

[Summit County Creates COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program](#)

[New Stark County fund to provide small business grants](#)

[Cuyahoga County Small Business Stabilization Fund](#)

[Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady and EDP on help for businesses](#)

Additionally, we want to remind you of other resources that you can point businesses in your community to.

[DSA Office of Small Business Relief](#)

[Lear Corp. Safe Work Playbook](#) (includes information on creating a safe work environment, which may be useful for businesses looking to reopen)

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 Thursday, April 23rd 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. 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.