



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309  
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986  
Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**April 20, 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 20, 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 12,919 cases. There have been 509 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

Gov. DeWine announced that students will continue distance learning for the remainder of this school year. A decision about school in the fall has not been made yet.

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 20<sup>th</sup> press conference can be found [here](#). The administration plans to hold press conferences daily at 2 p.m. Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **CCAO Membership Conference Calls with U.S. Senators Tomorrow and Wednesday, April 22nd**



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)

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.

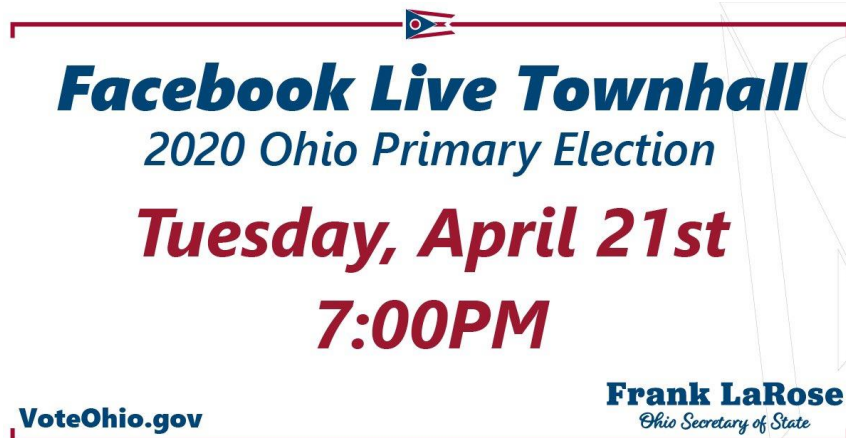
These calls will follow the same protocol as our membership calls on Thursdays. Lines will be muted except for the speakers, and members will be asked to text their questions to Policy Analyst Rachel Massoud, 513-543-3723. It is vital for our Senators to hear from you and address your concerns. Please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

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

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

**Secretary of State LaRose Facebook Live Town Hall Tomorrow**

Secretary of State Frank LaRose will host a Facebook Live Town Hall on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming primary election. To participate, visit [Facebook.com/FrankLaRose](https://www.facebook.com/FrankLaRose).



The graphic features a red horizontal line at the top with a small Ohio state flag icon in the center. Below the line, the text "Facebook Live Townhall" is written in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath that, "2020 Ohio Primary Election" is written in a smaller, blue, italicized font. The date and time, "Tuesday, April 21st" and "7:00PM", are displayed in a large, bold, red font. At the bottom left, "VoteOhio.gov" is written in a blue font. At the bottom right, "Frank LaRose" is written in a bold blue font, with "Ohio Secretary of State" in a smaller, italicized blue font below it. The entire graphic is framed by a thin red border.

**SharedWork Ohio Program Overview and Webinar Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The SharedWork Ohio program is a layoff aversion program that has come to the forefront of conversation due to COVID-19. Below you'll find a summary of the program and a link to register for a webinar on the topic.

County, municipal, township and other political subdivision employers can participate in SharedWork Ohio as long as all the requirements are met under ORC 4141.51 <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4141.51>.

**A summary of the SharedWork Ohio program can be found [here](#). Thank you for Marc Fishel of Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP for providing this summary.**

SharedWork Ohio (SWO) is a voluntary layoff avoidance program that allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. Under an SWO plan, eligible employers will reduce affected employee's weekly work hours between 10 and 50 percent. Participating employees will work the reduced schedule and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will pay them a prorated unemployment benefit.

SWO allows employers to retain their skilled workforce, eliminate the time and expense of recruiting and training new workers and maintain existing employee benefits. It may prevent workers from being permanently laid off due to a lack of work or business closure. Participating employees can remain with the employer and do not have to search and train for a new job.

- To be considered for the program, employers must submit an application and a participant list.
- An approved SWO plan can be in effect for up to 52 weeks (the weeks do not need to be consecutive).
- Additional program information can be found at: [ifs.ohio.gov/ouc/SharedWorkOhio](https://ifs.ohio.gov/ouc/SharedWorkOhio) or by calling (866) 733-0025, Option 3.

Ohio employers may apply if they meet the following criteria:

- Have at least two affected employees that do not work on a seasonal, temporary or intermittent basis;
- Are current on all Ohio unemployment insurance reporting, contributions, reimbursements, interest and penalties due;
- Agree to the program requirements.

After ODJFS notifies an employer that it approves the submitted SharedWork Ohio plan, the affected employees may apply for SharedWork Ohio benefits.

**To apply for a SharedWork Ohio plan:**

- Go to [www.unemployment.ohio.gov](http://www.unemployment.ohio.gov)
- Log in to your OJI Employer benefits account
- From the Main Menu, under SharedWork Ohio (SWO), select View/Manage SWO Plans

**Webinar on Thursday, April 23 at 11:00 a.m.:**

The Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association County (OJFSDA) and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) are pleased to offer a one-hour webinar on Thursday, April 23 at 11:00 a.m:

“Navigating Unemployment Insurance during COVID-19: Tips and Pathways for Employers”

This presentation will provide a high-level overview of the SharedWork Ohio program, a vital layoff aversion tool that allows employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. The presentation will also cross-reference the programs and funding options available under the recently enacted federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Speaker: Julie Barone, Legal Chief, OUIO Legal Support, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

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

### **OSU – CCAO – COVID-19 Agricultural Economy Update and Weather Forecast Thursday, April 23rd**

From Dr. Cathann Kress, VP and Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University –

CCAO members are invited to a Zoom briefing on the impact of COVID-19 on Ohio agriculture on **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am**. The briefing will feature leading experts showing the impact on the Ohio agriculture economy. The briefing will focus around the economic impact to many sectors related to Ohio agriculture, the spring weather, and food supply issues.

We hope you can join us for this important update. If you are interested in joining the briefing, please contact Adam Ward, Director of Government Affairs for CFAES at [ward.311@osu.edu](mailto:ward.311@osu.edu) or Adam Schwiebert at [aschwiebert@ccao.org](mailto:aschwiebert@ccao.org) and they will provide you with the meeting link and dial-in information.

### **Updated County Unemployment Claim Numbers**

To view updated county unemployment claim numbers, click [here](#). Ohioans filed 158,782 initial claims for unemployment benefits during the week ending April 11. This represents a decrease of nearly 30 percent from the previous week. Continued claims from individuals who were unemployed for more than one week stood at 622,520. If you have questions, please contact CCAO Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck at [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org).

### **NACo Update on Federal Legislation**

NACO Executive Director Matt Chase provided an update to members about negotiations on Capitol Hill on the next round of federal legislation. Legislative leadership is close to reaching a deal with the White House on a “COVID 3.5” legislative package. Unfortunately, it appears that the \$150 billion aid package for state and local governments is not part of the deal. It also does not appear that the legislation will amend the CARES Act passed last month to make the funds easier to use. Treasury guidance for the CARES Act is expected to be released on April 24.

The COVID 3.5 legislation will include additional aid for small business and for hospitals (with a possible set-aside for rural hospitals), and funding for testing. The President has expressed willingness to include aid for states and local governments in future legislation. NACO believes that there are three misperceptions that are being repeated on Capitol Hill:

- States and local governments have mismanaged their finances and it is inappropriate for the federal government to bail them out;
- If the federal government provides too much aid it will create a disincentive for states to reopen their economies;
- The CARES Act “took care” of the needs of states and local governments for months to come.

NACO is asking all of its members to keep up the pressure, talk to the Congressional delegation, and position counties for assistance in the next legislative package. NACO reports that the White House and the Senate

majority caucus are saying they are not hearing enough from their members about the need for assistance to local government.

Members are also being asked to fill out a survey on the NACO website about their financial situation. You can find the survey [here](#).

Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org), 614-600-8900.

### **NACo Call on COVID-19 Response Efforts with U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia Tomorrow**

Please join NACo on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. for an update on county priorities in federal COVID-19 response efforts. Hear from U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia, who will discuss new federal resources available for county residents and new requirements for county governments as employers due to recently enacted COVID-19 response legislation.

RSVP [here](#) to receive call-in information. Email questions to [questions@naco.org](mailto:questions@naco.org).

### **Ohio Manufacturing Alliance Emergency PPE Makers' Exchange**

The Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19 has launched the [Ohio Emergency PPE Makers' Exchange](#), an online marketplace where organizations that need PPE and related equipment can find a selection offered by Ohio manufacturers and makers -- many of which have retooled to produce in-demand products.

- Please note that this is an exchange; it is more like Craigslist than eBay. The Alliance has screened vendors -- to the best of its ability -- to include only Ohio manufacturers and makers, but cannot vouch for sellers or products.
- This online marketplace is especially well-suited for organizations that have lower-volume needs, including essential employers.
- If you have urgent PPE needs, you're encouraged to visit the Exchange as soon as possible. Supplies are limited.

### **County Talk: 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:

[Cities, counties face cuts](#) (Allen and Auglaize Counties)

[Clark County resolution](#)

### **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 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**

[ODJFS Director Hall Weekly Call Notes 4.20.2020](#)

[FEMA Daily Briefing Points 4.19.2020](#)

[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).