



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

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

April 22, 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 22, 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 14,117 cases. There have been 610 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted, and Dr. Acton plan to release more information about Ohio's plan to reopen this week. As we await this information, we encourage members to continue thinking about their operations plans. Part of this planning process may involve commissioners, county executives, and county councils convening other county officials to collaboratively develop a countywide strategy for reopening.

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 22nd 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.

SharedWork Ohio Webinar Tomorrow Thursday, April 23rd

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.:



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



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



Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org

“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.

Ohio Senators Send Joint Letter to US Treasury Secretary

Yesterday, Ohio Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman sent a letter to Steve Mnuchin, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The letter asks the Treasury to provide additional flexibility in the use of CARES Act Funding and to support new funding for state and local governments beyond the CARES Act that allows governments to address budget shortfalls. The letter states that Ohio has already received \$2.26 billion of its expected \$4.5 billion total, and states that the DeWine Administration has “indicated that a portion of this funding will be directed to local governments, including those who cannot apply directly to Treasury to receive funding.”

The letter goes on to state the following: “Bottom line, Ohio’s unique composition of tax revenues makes it much harder for our state and local governments to fully respond to this crisis. Accordingly, we urge you to issue immediate guidance that provides maximum flexibility on how states and local governments can use these funds – including as replacement for lost revenue -- and to work with Congress to maintain and expand that flexibility in any future allocations to state and local governments.”

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

Note: The U.S. Treasury is expected to release additional guidance to states and other grantees about the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act on Friday. Congress is working to pass a new “COVID-19 3.5” relief package that will provide additional funding for small businesses and health care providers. It does not contain new funding for states and local governments.

NACo Compiles Frequently Asked Questions about the CARES Act

NACo has released a summary of the frequently asked questions they have received from members during conference calls and webinars about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Information in the document covers the following topics:

- Direct Financial Assistance Payments (Tax Rebates)
- Payroll Tax Credits and Paid Family/Medical Leave
- Child Care Assistance
- Municipal Bonds
- Unemployment Insurance
- Housing and Urban Development/Mortgages
- Economic Stabilization Fund
- Assistance for Small Businesses
- Transportation
- Elections and Election Security

Coronavirus Relief Fund (State Stabilization Fund)
Assistance for Lost Revenue
Municipal Liquidity Facility
FEMA Assistance
Public Lands
Federal Safety Net Programs
NACo Resources

The document is available [here](#). NACo reminds its members that recordings of NACo's national calls can be accessed at [this link](#). Please also see [NACo's comprehensive COVID-19 landing page](#) for federal policy resources and additional information on steps counties are taking to address the coronavirus locally.

ODH Order to Release Protected Health Information to First Responders

Last week, Dr. Amy Acton announced that a new order has been issued that requires local health departments to provide to their jurisdictions' dispatch agency or agencies the names and addresses of COVID-19-positive individuals. Dispatch agencies are required to keep this information confidential. By knowing in advance if they will be interacting with someone who has tested positive, first responders will be better prepared when they arrive at a scene with appropriate protective gear. To read the order, click [here](#).

JobsOhio, Peoples Bank and First Federal/Home Savings Bank Small Business Support

JobsOhio, Peoples Bank and First Federal/Home Savings Bank announced a partnership to support existing small business clients with maintaining operations and payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. JobsOhio has committed up to \$50 million to assist with this. For information on how to apply for this lending support, businesses should visit [PeoplesBancorp.com/Coronavirus](#), [First-fedbanking.com/COVID-19](#) or [Homesavings.com/COVID-19](#).

USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Today, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced emergency benefit increases have reached \$2.0 billion per month for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households across all 50 states and 3 territories to increase food security during the coronavirus national emergency. To read the news release, click [here](#).

CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO COVID-19 Weekly Briefing Call Tomorrow

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

[ODJFS Frequently Asked Questions 4.22.2020](#)

[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. 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.