



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

April 24, 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 24, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CAB: Virtual Meetings during COVID-19](#)
2. [CAB: COVID-19 Employment Related FAQs](#)
3. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law](#)
4. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 4.22.2020](#)
5. [Treasury FAQs 4.22.2020](#)
6. [CAB: COVID-19 and Collective Bargaining Issues](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Press Conference

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced that Ohio now has 15,169 cases. There have been 690 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

Gov. DeWine announced that the state will cover the costs for all youth who will age out of the foster care system over the next three months to stay in care until the pandemic ends. This option will also be available for young people in the Bridges program, so young people turning 21 will be able to stay in the program.

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 24th press conference can be found [here](#). The governor does not plan to have a press briefing this weekend. The press conferences will resume on Monday at 2 p.m. Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

County Reopening Planning and Guidance



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



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



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

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

CCAO members have started sharing their early plans and guidance for gradual return to work. We are sharing some of these plans with you with the understanding that these examples may change as Gov. DeWine and his administration release more information. If your county has examples you would like to share, please contact Policy Analyst Adam Schwiebert at aschwiebert@ccao.org.

[Licking County Return to Work Plan](#)

[Task force formed in Jefferson County to direct business re-opening](#)

Indigent Defense Reimbursement Update from Ohio Public Defender Young

Ohio Public Defender Tim Young sent the following indigent defense reimbursement update to counties:

I hope this message finds you and your respective colleagues well. I write today with an update on indigent defense reimbursement. The Office of the Ohio Public Defender (OPD) has processed the reimbursement submissions for the months of January and February, and will be remitting those payments to the counties in the next two weeks. The payments will be issued at a reimbursement rate of 85% (which is above OPD's projected reimbursement rate of 70% for Fiscal Year 2020).

For Fiscal Year 2020, the OPD has processed eight reimbursement payments (for May – December submissions), and as indicated above will be processing two additional payments (for January and February submissions) in the near future. The rate of reimbursement for the final two payments of Fiscal Year 2020 (for March and April submissions – which will be paid in May and June) is still being assessed based upon available funds.

Like our county partners, the OPD is awaiting more information on the funding impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in a reduction in tax revenues. The Ohio Office of Budget Management (OBM) requested all state agencies develop a plan to reduce their respective Fiscal Year 2020 budgets by up to 20%. As soon as we receive information on any decisions made by OBM, we will notify you.

Additionally, it is our understanding that planning has begun concerning any necessary adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. As such, the OPD is not able to provide an estimated annual reimbursement rate at this time. The best we can provide at this time is a projection that if indigent defense funding were reduced by 20%, the reimbursement rate would be 70%. But this is simply a projection and should not be taken as guidance or as predictive of what the rate ultimately will be. As soon as we receive further information, we will be in touch.

The OPD realizes information concerning indigent defense reimbursement is of utmost importance to the counties, as it is to OPD. As such, we will certainly keep you apprised.

Please feel free to reach out to the Policy & Outreach Division (outreach@opd.ohio.gov) should you have any questions.

Thank you and take care,
Tim

Secretary of State LaRose Directive Regarding Election

Secretary of State LaRose issued [Directive 2020-08](#) last week. The directive provides guidance for in-person absentee voting on April 28, 2020, among other items. The directive states, in part:

As explained in [Directive 2020-07](#), in-person voting on April 28, 2020 is limited to electors who have not already cast a ballot in this election, who were registered to vote as of February 18, 2020, and who are in one of the following two categories:

1. Persons who have a disability, and who wish to cast absent voter's ballots using a DRE voting machine or marking device that is accessible for voters with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters.
2. Persons who are unable to receive mail at the place where the elector resides or at another location.

Boards must be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. and have adequate staffing in place on April 28, 2020. Additionally, boards must communicate to voters through their websites, social media, and news outlets in advance of April 28, 2020 that in-person voting is limited to these populations. However, boards must not question a voter's assertion or affirmation that they are disabled or unable to receive mail where they reside or at another location.

The Secretary of State's Office provided a template poster with this Directive that gives notice to anyone who appears at the board of elections on April 28, 2020 that in-person voting is limited to only the above mentioned categories of voters. Each board must print and display at least one of these posters in a place that will be conspicuous to individuals before they enter the building to vote.

If a voter chooses to affirmatively state they are not in one of the two categories, the board must provide a provisional ballot. The board must also issue a provisional ballot to any voter who would otherwise be required to vote provisionally, including those voters who requested an absentee ballot for the election.

To read the full directive, click [here](#).

NACo Update on Human Services Funding

NACo released a summary on the Status of Human Services and Education Funding Under Supplemental COVID-19 Packages. To read the summary, click [here](#).

Ensuring Access to Extension Publications to Ohio Residents During COVID-19

- To give Ohio residents access to the materials they usually order and pick up from county Extension offices, OSU Extension has made two coupons available for use on its store at extensionpubs.osu.edu. Although the cost of a book is slightly more than they would pay in county offices, the increase is offset by free shipping direct to their homes.
- In less than a week, the **FREE2020 coupon for free shipping** has been used **1,566** times, mainly by 4-H families eager for project books.
- Another coupon, **20IN2020, is good for 20% off an order** and has been used **474** times. Residents choose one or the other coupon. Ordering instructions are available at go.osu.edu/orderingiseasy2020 and on the store's landing page at extensionpubs.osu.edu.

- Ohio residents also have access to a collection of 20 free, downloadable project book PDFs called [Perfect Stay-at-Home Projects](#). Those online files have been accessed nearly **6,287** times so far.

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 30th 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.