



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**April 27, 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 27, 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 16,325 cases. There have been 753 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

The governor announced the beginning of [Ohio's reopening plan](#). Read more in the article below.

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 27<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).

### **Ohio's Gradual Reopening Plan Schedule and How It Affects County Government**

Today Gov. DeWine announced the beginning of Ohio's gradual reopening plan. Certain business activities will be able to resume on specified dates. The Stay-at-Home order will stay in place, though it will be modified to accommodate the changes listed below. For gatherings, the order of no more than 10 people will remain. All businesses will have to follow the industry guidelines outlined by the Ohio Department of Health and the



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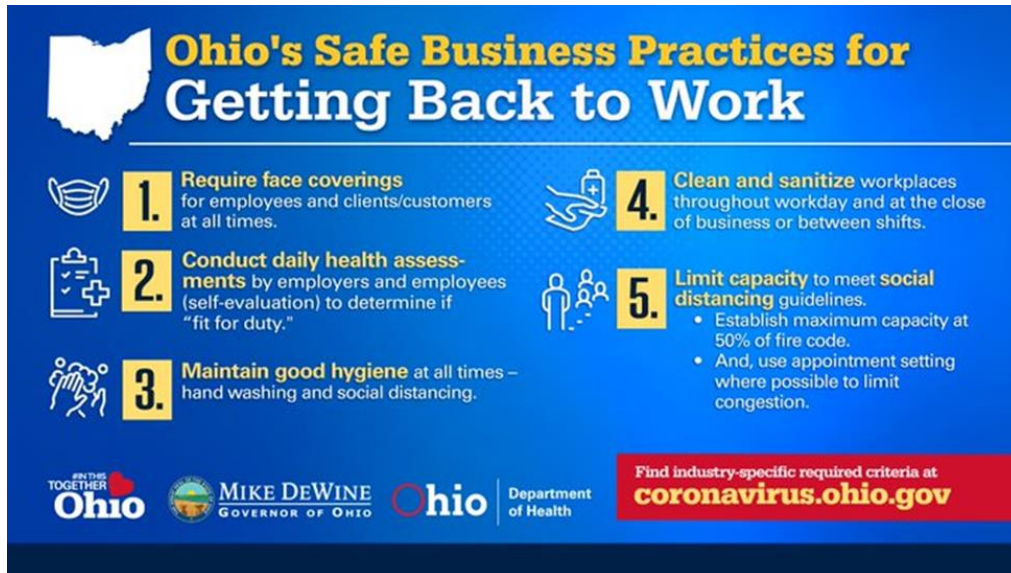
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administration, whether they have remained open through the Stay-at-Home orders or not. **The governor strongly encouraged that all employees that are successfully working from home continue to do so.**

The administration released this graphic to highlight five [safe business practices](#) that companies will be expected to follow:



The announced schedule for reopening is:

**May 1 – Healthcare Opening.** All procedures that do not require an overnight stay in a hospital will be allowed. Emergency surgeries have always been allowed and continue to be allowed. Dentists and veterinarians will be able to resume work again. Some elective surgeries are still not allowed but the administration will continue to evaluate the PPE supply and evaluate these surgeries.

**May 4 – Manufacturing, Distribution, Construction and General Office Environments Opening.** Businesses within these categories will be able to open while following guidelines. Manufacturing industry guidelines can be found [here](#). General offices will also be allowed to open on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the guidelines can be found [here](#).

**May 12 – Consumer, Retail & Services Opening.** Businesses in these categories will be able to open while following guidelines that can be found [here](#). Employees must wear face masks when working and consumers must wear masks when shopping and visiting stores.

### **So how does this affect county government?**

Though county government never closed because the services you provide are essential, many of you have altered work practices for your employees. For the purposes of reopening and which guidelines to follow, local government falls into the "General Office Environments" category. The governor reiterated that all offices, whether they were open and functioning or not during the previous Stay-at-Home orders, will be required to follow the guidelines for employers. Additionally, the governor stressed that any employees that are successfully working from home should continue to do so during this phase. The guidelines for General Office Environments can be found [here](#) and are listed in the chart below:

# Responsible RestartOhio

## General Office Environments



### Mandatory

#### Employees & Guests

- Ensure minimum 6 ft between people, if not possible, install barriers
- Personnel should work from home when possible
- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment\*
- Require employees to stay home if symptomatic
- Face coverings must be worn at all times while working
- Require regular handwashing
- Reduce sharing of work materials
- Limit travel as much as possible
- Stagger arrival of all employees and guests
- Post signage on health safety guidelines in common areas

### Recommended Best Practices

- Ensure seating distance of 6 ft or more
- Enable natural workplace ventilation
- Health questionnaire for symptoms at entry
- Temperature taking protocol

#### Physical Spaces / Workstations

- Frequent disinfection of desks, workstations, and high-contact surfaces
- Daily disinfection of common areas
- Cancel/postpone in person events when social distancing guidelines cannot be met
- No buffet in cafeteria
- Utilize disposable tableware and other materials
- Establish maximum capacity (e.g. 50% of fire code)

#### Redesign/space workstations for 6 ft or more of distance

- Close cafeteria and gathering spaces if possible, or conduct regular cleanings
- Limit congregation in office spaces
- Divide essential staff into groups and establishing rotating shift
- Availability of at least 3 weeks of cleaning supplies

#### Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at work
- Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposures
- Shutdown shop/floor for deep sanitation if possible

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications
- Once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing

*\*Daily symptom assessments should include taking your temperature with a thermometer and monitoring for fever. Also watch for coughing or trouble breathing.*

With this new information, it is crucial that county commissioners, county executives, and county councils convene other county officials to develop a countywide strategy for following the guidelines listed above as Ohio reopens. We will continue to share sample plans with you. If your county has examples you would like to share, please contact Policy Analyst Adam Schwiebert at [aschwiebert@ccao.org](mailto:aschwiebert@ccao.org).

Your communities may ask about closures that remain. The current list of continued closures can be found [here](#).

The governor emphasized the importance of testing and tracing as the state continues to reopen. The administration plans to watch these changes for a few weeks and see how they impact the disease numbers. During the questions and answer period, the governor said he considered a geographical approach to reopening but ultimately felt that 113 health departments making 113 different decisions would be confusing for Ohioans. Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted, Dr. Acton, and the administration continue to talk to other industries about reopening, including restaurants, bars, salons and gyms, but they do not feel Ohio is ready for that step at this time.

Further reopening information can be found at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/responsiblerestartohio>.

### **BWC Dividends Amounts by County**

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) released a chart of BWC dividend amounts for each public entity in Ohio, sorted by county. To view the chart, click [here](#). The total amount is over \$183M. The checks should all be mailed this week. The dividend amounts are based upon 2018 workers' compensation premium paid, reduced by any adjustments such as a Group Retro refund, Early Pay discount or Safety Council rebate.

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

To view updated county unemployment claim numbers, click [here](#). Ohio initial total unemployment claims totaled 109,369 during the week ending April 18, a decrease of 31 percent from the prior week. Total continued claims from those receiving benefits for more than one week were 717,306, an increase of 15 percent from the prior week. If you have questions, please contact CCAO Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck at [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org).

### **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 30<sup>th</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 4.27.2020](#)

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security Weekly COVID-19 Response Update 4.27.2020](#)

[FEMA Daily Briefing Points 4.27.2020](#)

[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).