



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

April 9, 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 9, 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 5,512 confirmed cases. There have been 213 COVID-19 related deaths. To read the governor's press release following the press conference, click [here](#). Highlights include: PPE Manufacturing, Convalescent Plasma.

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 9th press conference can be found [here](#). The administration plans to hold daily press conferences at 2 pm. Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

BWC Dividends Information

Yesterday, Gov. DeWine asked the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) to send up to \$1.6 billion in dividends to Ohio employers to ease the economic impact of COVID-19 on the business community. This dividend equals approximately 100% of the premiums employers paid in policy year 2018. BWC will apply the dividend to an employer's outstanding balances first, including the recent installment deferrals. Any amounts



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exceeding outstanding balances will be sent to the employer. If approved by BWC's Board of Directors at their virtual meeting tomorrow (4/10), approximately \$1.4 billion will go to private employers and approximately \$200 million will go to local government taxing districts (counties, cities, schools, etc.). Checks will start going out later this month. The BWC press release can be found [here](#) and the official ODH guidance can be found [here](#).

Electronic Signature Usage

With the recently gained temporary ability for counties to conduct virtual meetings, some CCAO members have inquired about the usage of electronic signatures. Today, the Auditor of State's office provided the following guidance on electronic signature usage on resolutions and other official documents:

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 9 allows for facsimile signatures on checks, warrants, vouchers, and other documents for the payment of money. The Code does not address electronic or other signatures on resolutions and actions taken during public and official meetings. Since Section 12 of House Bill 197 states that "any resolution, rule, or formal action of any kind shall have the same effect as if it had occurred during an open meeting or hearing of the public body," these documents are official and valid in the same way they would be at an in-person meeting. Under O.R.C. 1306.06 a signature may not be denied legal effect solely because it is in electronic form. O.R.C. 1306.06(D) further states "[i]f a law requires a signature, an electronic signature satisfies the law." Therefore, officials may electronically sign official documents. It is strongly recommended that local officials notify their clerk in writing when an electronic signature is allowed to be used on an official document.

NACo Releases Comprehensive COVID-19 Resource

NACo released a comprehensive memo that includes an in-depth, targeted analysis of the \$2 trillion CARES Act (H.R. 748), the third federal emergency supplemental package. It also features NACo resources, direct links to federal funding and other tools, and updates on NACo federal policy advocacy on behalf of America's counties, parishes and boroughs. You can read the memo [here](#).

OSU Extension/CFAES Resources

COVID-19 Hub

The CFAES Knowledge Exchange, Ohio State University Extension, and CFAES research communities are pleased to launch the COVID-19 Hub – a place to share science-backed COVID-19 information, education, and resources with the public. **You can connect with the hub at kx.osu.edu/covid-19.**

The COVID-19 Hub content will evolve and expand as more information becomes available throughout this experience. Please help us share the hub link with your audiences as well.

OSU Extension: "Ask an Expert" for Financial Assistance

OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Healthy Finances professionals are sensitive to the economic challenges families and their communities are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some, the loss of jobs has greatly affected families and their communities. For others, it is declining health along with inadequate health insurance coverage that puts their economic well-being and quality of life at risk. Whatever your situation, we are here to help.

Our county-based Family and Consumer Sciences Extension financial educators are offering FREE financial education to assist families in improving both present and future economic well-being. Submit your anonymous question and a professional will respond via email within 5 business days. For more information, click [here](#).

USDA Announces Loan Maturity for Marketing Assistance Loans Now Extended to 12 Months

Agricultural producers now have more time to repay Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implementation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. The loans now mature at 12 months rather than nine, and this flexibility is available for most commodities. To read the full USDA release, click [here](#).

CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO Bi-weekly COVID-19 Briefing Calls

CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO will host a biweekly COVID-19 briefing call for members every Monday and Thursday at 3:30 p.m. The next call will be Monday, April 13th. 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

[Federal Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness Response and Mitigation Efforts](#)

[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.