



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

May 12, 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: MAY 12, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CAB: Employees Returning to Work FAQs](#)
2. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law](#)
3. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 4.22.2020](#)
4. [Treasury FAQs 5.4.2020](#)
5. [CAB: COVID-19 and Collective Bargaining Issues](#)
6. [Reopening Information](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Note: Starting this week, CCAO will no longer send memos on Fridays, unless something unexpected warrants it. Memos will continue to be sent Monday through Thursday.

Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Press Conference

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced that Ohio now has 25,250 COVID-19 cases. There have been 1,436 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

The administration announced that massage and tattoo/piercing parlors are able to reopen on May 15th while following industry guidelines. Massage therapy guidelines can be found [here](#). Tattoo/piercing guidelines will be available this evening [here](#).

Gov. DeWine announced that ODJFS received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Ohio's Pandemic EBT program. This approval allows ODJFS to distribute SNAP benefits to 850,000 students across Ohio who rely on free and reduced meal programs in school. The benefits will be mailed directly to those who are eligible; families do not need to apply. To read the news release, click [here](#).

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



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



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



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

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 May 12th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next press conference will be Thursday at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

OBM Releases Monthly Financial Report for April 2020

The state Office of Budget and Management released its [monthly financial report](#) for April 2020. The report details the state's fiscal performance for the past month and provides data on key economic indicators. This month's report also contains a special section highlighting the economic impacts of epidemics and pandemics.

As expected, the coronavirus pandemic has had a profoundly negative impact on unemployment rates, business confidence and tax revenues. April sales and use tax collections came in 24 percent under estimate for the month. This underperformance will be felt by counties in coming months as local sales tax revenues are distributed.

Other key state revenue sources, such as income tax, also dramatically underperformed estimates. Weak revenues will lead to decreased state spending for the remainder of state fiscal year 2020 as well as fiscal year 2021. Much remains unknown about the trajectory of the economic recovery, the strength of which will have a significant impact on state and county finances for months to come.

For additional information on the state's economic condition, access the full report [here](#).

Federal Legislation Update

This afternoon, US House Majority leadership introduced a 1,800-page coronavirus relief [bill](#) called the "The Heroes Act." The legislation addresses a wide range of priorities, including \$500 billion in funding to assist state governments and \$375 billion to assist local governments with the fiscal impacts of the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus. It also includes a second round of stimulus payments to taxpayers and a fund to provide hazard pay to health care workers and first responders.

Other highlights include:

- \$75 billion to states and territories to assist homeowners by providing assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, and other housing related costs.
- \$100 billion to provide emergency assistance to help low-income renters at risk of homelessness.
- \$100 billion in grants for hospital and health care providers to be reimbursed for lost revenue directly attributable to COVID-19.
- \$100 billion to assist school districts and educational institutions.
- Extension of various pandemic unemployment insurance provisions authorized in previous federal legislation through January 31, 2021.
- \$3.6 billion for grants to states for contingency planning, preparation, and resilience of elections for federal office.
- \$1.5 billion for broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots, and \$4 billion for emergency home connectivity needs.
- \$10 billion in grants to small businesses that have suffered financial losses as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

- \$15.75 billion for operating assistance grants for transit agencies to maintain basic transit services.
- Increases the federal cost share in the Medicaid program (FMAP percentage) by 14 percentage points starting July 1, 2020.

The bill is a starting point for negotiations with the Senate and the White House. NACO will hold a membership call at 5 pm tomorrow to explain the implications for counties. A summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-600-8900.

White House Briefing Call Registration – May 13th

On **Wednesday, May 13, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time**, please join Senior Administration Officials for a national COVID-19 briefing call. We will be joined by Senior Administration Officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to discuss recent announcements and highlight pertinent updates, including Administration actions – in partnership with State, local, and Tribal Officials – to scale testing, protect seniors, support farmers and agricultural producers, and invest in our nation’s infrastructure. See below for call registration instructions.

Briefing Call Registration

Date: Wednesday, May 13

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern Time (please note start time and time zone)

Call-In Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Note: Please note the following information regarding registration.

- Call-in lines are limited. RSVP’s will be allocated in the order they are received. Please register only if you are able to join the call.
- Upon successful registration, you will be directed to a separate webpage with confirmation details and/or receive dial-in instructions to the email address you use to register. Please ensure the email address you register with is correct and check your spam/junk folder after registration. If neither action occurs, you did not successfully register.
- If you are attempting to register but cannot “submit” your information, please try again at a later time.
- Note that multiple people cannot dial-in using the same registration information. This will cause you to be kicked-off the call.
- Registration closes once the call reaches capacity or two hours prior to call start time.

County Reentry and Return to Work Documents

As counties begin to reopen their buildings and have employees return to work, CCAO wanted to provide some examples of policies for employees and visitors that are being put into place.

[Fairfield County Sign: Guidelines for Entering our Building](#)

If you wish to share your examples, please send them to Rachel Massoud at rmassoud@ccao.org.

Upcoming CCAO Webinars – May 13th and May 15th

CCAO is sponsoring two webinars this week. Details for each webinar and links to register are below:

Navigating the Workplace Accommodation Process

Wednesday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Public employers must operate under a variety of rules and regulations stemming from a multitude of laws governing the workplace. One such occurrence is when an employee requests a leave of absence or an accommodation for an illness, injury, religious belief or pregnancy. If such requests are not handled properly, an employer could face liability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

This webinar will provide an overview of the accommodation process and discuss management’s responsibilities during the interactive process when faced with an employee’s request for an accommodation. Case law will be reviewed throughout.

Further, the webinar will discuss the legal landscape of workplace accommodations in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Presenter: Brad E. Bennett, Bricker & Eckler

[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.

CCAO and Montrose Group COVID 19 Economic Recovery Webinar Series: County Models and State & Federal Funding Approaches

Friday, May 15th at 1:00 p.m.

COVID 19's public health impact is just the start. Strategies designed to slow the spread of the virus caused a nearly 5% drop in the U.S. GDP in the first quarter of 2020, sales tax revenues in March for the state of Ohio dropped 8% and the impact on county government from a revenue decline and service expansion will be challenging. Please join the Montrose Group, a Columbus, Ohio based economic development and public policy consulting firm, for a free webinar to learn about how counties can craft a COVID 19 economic recovery strategy. The discussion will include creative county approaches to COVID 19 economic recovery and how state and federal funding approaches can play a role in COVID 19 economic recovery.

[Click here](#) to register to this timely educational opportunity.

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, May 14th at 3:30 p.m. The call-in information is:

**Dial 1-877-273-4202
Access code 889-229-624**

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 keep our calls focused and concise and provide the best experience possible for our participants.

Other Resources

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security Weekly Update 5.11.2020](#)

[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.