



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

May 4, 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 4, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

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

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Press Conference

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced that Ohio now has 20,474 COVID-19 cases. There have been 1,056 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

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

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 4th press conference can be found [here](#). The administration plans to hold press conferences every weekday at 2 p.m. Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

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



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



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



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

[Delaware County COVID-19 Initial Opening Guidance](#)

[Delaware County COVID-19 Checklist for Employees](#)

[Delaware County Additional Mask/Face Covering Guidance](#)

[Delaware County Returning to Work Flow Chart for Employees](#)

[Delaware County Keeping Ourselves and Others Safe Document](#)

[Henry County Changes Effective May 4th Memo](#)

[JLL Reentry: A guide for working in the next normal](#)

[JLL Reentry: Tenant needs in a post-pandemic world](#)

[JLL Reentry: A holistic approach to re-entering your workspace](#)

Updated U.S. Treasury Guidance on Coronavirus Relief Fund

The U.S. Department of the Treasury continues to update its [guidance](#) on the use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act. The Treasury provided direct distributions from the Fund to the State of Ohio and political subdivisions within the state that have a population greater than 500,000. The General Assembly is preparing legislation to distribute some of the funds to counties and other political subdivisions that did not receive initial direct payments. Treasury updated its “Frequently Asked Questions” guidance by making it easier for recipients to use the funds for certain payroll expenses. This interpretation should make the funds much easier for the county to use the funds. The new guidance is quoted below:

Question: Treasury’s Coronavirus Relief Fund guidance states that funding can be used to meet payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. How do I determine whether payroll expenses for a given employee satisfy the “substantially dedicated” condition?

Answer: The Coronavirus Relief Fund is designed to provide ready funding to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency. For this reason, and as a matter of administrative convenience in light of the emergency nature of this program, a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government may presume that payroll costs for public health and public safety employees are payments for services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise.

[end quote]

CCAO will continue to monitor the federal guidance and will update members as new information is released. Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-600-8900.

Casino Gross Revenue Tax Distributed in April

After starting 2020 with a strong increase in gaming activity in January and February, Ohio’s casinos were closed abruptly on March 13 due to an order by the Ohio Department of Health. Casino operators must pay the gross casino revenue tax at a rate of 33 percent to the state, which then distributes the funds according to a formula established in the Revised Code (RC 5753.03(D)). Proceeds are distributed quarterly in April, July, October, and January.

The Gross Casino Revenue County Fund receives 51 percent of the proceeds from the tax. Amounts are distributed to counties based on their proportionate share of the state's population. Counties with a population over 80,000 must share half of the casino revenue with their most populous city. The April 2020 total distribution of funds to counties after deductions for the most populous cities amounted to just under \$26 million. This is 7.3% less than the first quarter of 2019. The DeWine Administration has not yet announced plans to reopen the casinos.

Updated County Unemployment Claim Numbers

To view updated county unemployment claim numbers, click [here](#). The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has released county-level data on unemployment claims for the week ending April 25. For the first time since mid-March, statewide initial claims fell below 100,000. Continued claims stood at 776,302. Eighty-one counties had at least 1,000 continued claims as of April 25. Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccaο.org, 614-600-8900.

Recommendations for Water Supply Flushing for Reopening of Buildings Under Statewide COVID-19 Transition Plan

The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency released guidance on water supply flushing for buildings that were closed or partially closed and are now reopening. As buildings re-open under the Responsible RestartOhio plan that have had little to no water usage during the Stay at Home Order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to flush water that has been stagnant in both cold- and hot-water distribution lines and fixtures. Low water usage can contribute to bacterial growth, including Legionella which can cause a serious type of pneumonia called Legionnaires' disease. It can also cause other water quality issues with potential health risks due to the build-up of lead and copper in stagnant water that's been collecting in older pipes and fixtures.

A letter regarding these recommendations can be found [here](#). The guidance on premise plumbing water service restoration can be found [here](#).

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 7th at 3:30 p.m. Staff from the Department of Taxation will join the call to discuss revenue numbers. 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.

Upcoming CCAO Webinars – May 13th and May 15th

CCAO is sponsoring two webinars next 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.

OSU Extension to continue teleworking arrangements during Stay Safe Ohio order

Ohio State University Extension will continue operating via its teleworking plan for all employees and will keep physical OSU Extension offices closed to the public until further notice. To read the full release, click [here](#).

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Hall Weekly Call Notes](#)

[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.