



*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](http://www.ccao.org)

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**May 7, 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 7, 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](#)

### **Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Press Conference: Restaurants and Personal Care Services Reopening; Childcare announcement planned for Monday**

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced that Ohio now has 22,131 COVID-19 cases. There have been 1,271 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

The governor made two announcements related to Responsible Restart Ohio today:

Personal Care Service businesses (hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, etc.) will be able to open on May 15<sup>th</sup> while following [industry guidelines](#).

Restaurants and bars will be able to open for outdoor dining on May 15<sup>th</sup> while following [industry guidelines](#). Inside dining can resume on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Gov. DeWine plans to make an announcement regarding childcare on Monday.

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



Fax: 614-220-0209  
[www.corsa.org](http://www.corsa.org)



Fax: 614-229-4588  
[www.cebco.org](http://www.cebco.org)



Fax: 614-221-6986  
[www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

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 May 7<sup>th</sup> press conference can be found [here](#). **The administration will not hold another press conference until Monday at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **Ohio Department of Taxation will release preliminary data on non-auto county sales taxes tomorrow**

On today's CCAO membership conference call, three staff members of the Ohio Department of Taxation discussed the department's efforts to develop a reporting system that would provide advance notice of preliminary sales tax revenue to counties. ODT representatives Greg Siegfried, Deputy Tax Commissioner; Michael O'Leary, Chief Fiscal Officer – Fiscal Services; and Leslie Berning, Revenue Accounting Administrator – Fiscal Services, informed CCAO members that they have developed a methodology that will enable counties to receive an estimate of non-auto sales tax revenue on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the month of collection by ODT. This month's non-auto report will be released tomorrow. This enables counties to see preliminary data about six weeks prior to actual revenue distribution. The preliminary estimate will be based on the most important collection categories from regular and internet sales. ODT staff stated that the preliminary report will show that the average county experienced a seven percent decline in non-auto sales.

A report with preliminary auto sales tax revenues will be made available during the third week of the month following collection by the department. Auto sales tax revenues take longer to reconcile because of cross-county titling.

The reports provided to counties will include a comparison to the same month in the prior year's receipts in the same categories. It is important to note that the estimates included in the report will be preliminary gross sales and will not include any adjustments, assessments, refunds or the 1% administrative fee.

ODT staff explained that the first report covers sales made in March. Vendors had to report sales tax to ODT by April 23. ODT will make the preliminary non-auto sales report available tomorrow, and the preliminary auto sales tax report during the third week in May. The actual distribution will take place in mid-June.

Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org), 614-600-8900.

### **County Advisory Bulletin: Employees Returning to Work – Frequently Asked Questions**

CCAO is pleased to share its latest [County Advisory Bulletin on Employees Returning to Work – Frequently Asked Questions](#). Authored by Marc Fishel of Fishel, Downey, Albrecht & Riephenhoff, Marc answers a number of the tough questions counties are facing as they bring employees back into county facilities. We hope this information is helpful to you when navigating questions such as mask usage, employee testing, creating safe workspaces and other important workplace issues. If you have any additional questions regarding returning employees to work, please feel free to contact the CCAO policy team. To read this bulletin, click [here](#).

### **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](mailto:rmassoud@ccao.org).

[Tuscarawas County Building Re-opening Memo](#)

[Lake County Commissioners Amend Operating Procedures at County Buildings: Public Visitation by Appointment Only](#)

### **BJA Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program will provide funding to assist eligible states, local units of government, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. This is another source of COVID-19 funding for law enforcement and jails. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers. More information about the program can be found [here](#).

### **Ohio Initial Jobless Claims for Sunday, April 26, through Saturday, May 2, 2020**

For the week ending May 2, 2020, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 61,083 initial jobless claims to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last seven weeks (1,118,569) is 1,112 more than the combined total of 1,117,457 for the last three years. To read more, click [here](#).

### **Upcoming CCAO Webinars – May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>**

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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](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).