



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

September 24, 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: SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [OBM Ideas on How to Use Coronavirus Relief Funding](#)
3. [OBM CARES Act Funds Guidance 8.28.2020](#)
4. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
5. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
6. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 9.2.2020](#)
7. [CAB: Employees Returning to Work FAQs](#)
8. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law 7.15.2020](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's Press Conference

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted made several announcements related to reopening.

Indoor visitation can resume on September 28 for intermediate care facilities, provided safety guidelines are followed. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) order for visitation can be found [here](#).

Indoor visitation at Ohio nursing homes and assisted living facilities can resume October 12, provided safety guidelines are followed. The state will also release a new dashboard on coronavirus.ohio.gov that shows data by facility to help family members decide whether and when to visit.

The current ODH sports order is being updated to remove the one-game-per-day limit.

Yesterday, the administration released an updated order that allows retail food establishments regulated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to resume use of self-service food stations, so long as safety guidelines are followed. The order can be found [here](#) and a summary of the guidance can be found [here](#).



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The administration released this week's [Public Health Advisory System](#) map. There are nine Red Level 3 counties (newly Red in bold): **Ashland**, Butler, **Delaware**, Mercer, Montgomery, **Pike**, Putnam, **Scioto** and **Stark**. Portage County moved from Red Level 3 to Orange Level 2.

The state's Public Health Advisory System website now includes an interactive map detailing indicators in each county, which you can find [here](#). A county by county list of indicators for the week can be found [here](#). A chart of case rates by county can be found [here](#).

There was an increase of 991 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's September 24th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

General Assembly approves final CARES Act distribution to local governments

Yesterday, the General Assembly took action to disburse the remaining federal CARES Act funds to Ohio local governments. The Ohio Senate voted to approve [House Bill 614](#), legislation which included amendments to distribute the remaining federal funds. The House later concurred with the Senate's amendments to HB 614, sending the bill to Governor DeWine's desk. A spreadsheet of estimated distributions to local government entities from HB 614 can be accessed [here](#).

As you will recall, approximately \$650 million in federal CARES funds remains undistributed to local governments. The General Assembly and State Controlling Board have previously distributed \$525 million of CARES funds through actions earlier this year. As a reminder, these funds are distributed to Ohio local governments which did not receive a direct disbursement from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

To distribute the remaining CARES funds, Senate Bill 357 was unanimously passed by the Ohio Senate earlier this month. In an effort to speed the legislative process, SB 357 in its entirety was amended yesterday into HB 614, a separate piece of legislation dealing with unemployment compensation reform. Just like SB 357, HB 614 would distribute the remaining \$650 million on a per capita distribution basis. This is a change from HB 481 and State Controlling Board distributions, which were based on an LGF distribution model. HB 614 contains all the provisions of SB 357, which include the following appreciated changes to HB 481 timelines, redistribution process and other components:

- Clarifies that a local government does not need to adopt a resolution or ordinance to accept the HB 614 funds if a resolution has already been adopted pursuant to HB 481.
- Delays the date by which local governments are to send unencumbered CARES Act funds to the county treasury from October 15, 2020 to November 20, 2020.
- Requires the county auditor to redistribute unencumbered CARES Act funds to eligible local governments by November 25, 2020. This effectively reduces the turnaround time by two days.
- Utilizes most recent census estimates published by ODSA in place of 2010 decennial census data as part of redistribution calculations.
- Increases from 25% to 50% the share of redistribution funds sent to the county (assuming the county encumbers all its funds) if fewer than 25% of townships and municipalities do not encumber all their available CARES Act funds prior to the Nov. 20 deadline. This amendment has the effect of ensuring

the counties that qualify receive a more balanced redistribution should few local governments in a county fully utilize their funds.

- Clarifies how municipalities spanning multiple counties are to return unspent funds to the county treasury.
- Delays the date by which local governments must return unspent funds to the state from December 28, 2020 to February 1, 2021. The amendment reiterates that these funds may only be utilized for pandemic-related costs incurred no later than December 30, 2020. The extension is to aid in accounting purposes only.

Please be sure to thank your General Assembly members for their support of HB 614. Getting these funds into county hands where they can be put to work on a wide array of coronavirus relief purposes has been a high priority of CCAO. County government had many champions throughout the legislative process, so please be sure to show them your appreciation.

As always, CCAO continues to serve as a resource on how counties can utilize their CARES Act funds. Please visit our CARES Act fund resources [webpage](#) and direct your questions to CCAO Senior Policy Analyst [Jon Honeck](#). Please feel free to direct questions regarding HB 614 to CCAO Policy Analyst [Adam Schwiebert](#).

Upcoming Webinar: Subgranting of CARES Act Funding – September 25th at 1:00 p.m.

The Ohio Township Association, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, and County Commissioners Association of Ohio invite you to join the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) to discuss the processes and procedures of subgranting CARES Act funds to other entities. **The webinar will take place on Friday, September 25th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.** OBM Director Kim Murnieks and Stacie Massey will cover requirements under the CARES Act, how to establish a subgrant, innovative uses of CARES Act funds with other entities, and best practices for local governments looking to share resources or partner with other entities to deliver programs with CARES Act dollars. [Click here](#) to register for this webinar. If you are unable to register using the link, please contact Michael Zaky at zaky@ohiotownships.org.

Ohio Jobless Claims for Sunday, September 13, through Saturday, September 19, 2020

Ohioans filed 17,435 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported to the U.S. Dept. of Labor today. This was 256,780 fewer than – or about 6% of – the peak earlier this year. Ohioans filed 321,057 continued jobless claims last week, which was 455,245 fewer than – or less than half (about 41%) of – the peak earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

Request for counties to share CARES Act spending plans with CCAO policy team

With CARES Act funds being distributed to local governments across the state, counties have a number of options for how they may utilize their funds. As your county decides how to spend its CARES Act funds, please share your ideas with the CCAO policy team. Your ideas can serve as valuable examples to other counties considering different funding options. Please send any resolutions or spending plans to Jon Honeck at jhoneck@ccao.org.

Other Resources

[Updated ODJFS FAQs 9.23.2020](#)

[Public Health Advisory System Map and Resources](#)

[Ohio COVID-19 Travel Advisory Information](#)

[Current Information Regarding Reopening](#)

[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 want to help Ohio's response to this pandemic, you can contact the state at together@governor.ohio.gov. If you have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at rmassoud@ccao.org.