



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**September 29, 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 29, 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 spoke with Rebecca Fugitt, assistant chief of the Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection at the Ohio Department of Health regarding Ohio's wastewater monitoring project. He also spoke with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Director Annette Chambers Smith about how wastewater monitoring is being used in the testing plans for state prisons.

Lt. Gov. Husted discussed the Individual Micro-credential Assistance Program (IMAP). IMAP reimburses training providers up to \$3,000 for each completed technology-focused credential issued, up to \$250,000 per provider. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

Lt. Gov. Husted stated that Moody's Analytics and CNN Business released their "[Back to Normal Index](#)." The index ranges from zero (no economic activity) to 100% (economy returning to pre-pandemic) and is based on 37 national and 7 state-level indicators. Ohio received a score of 88 and ranked 10th.

There was an increase of 1,105 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



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



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



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A video of the governor's September 29<sup>th</sup> press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **Governor expected to sign HB 614 this week**

Gov. DeWine is expected to sign [House Bill 614](#) this week, which will distribute \$650 million in CARES Act funds to Ohio local governments on a per capita basis. The bill included an emergency clause and will become effective upon signature from the governor. The Office of Budget and Management is prepared to distribute the funds to local governments soon after it is signed into law. 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.

HB 614 includes 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.

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](#).

## **Talks resume between Treasury Department and Congressional Democrats**

[News reports](#) indicate that the US Treasury Department and Speaker Pelosi have resumed discussions over the next round of coronavirus relief legislation. Yesterday, House Democrats put forward an [updated version](#) of the Heroes Act with a lower overall appropriation amount than the original legislation passed by the House in May. The updated Heroes Act extends the deadline to use Coronavirus Relief Funds to December 31, 2021, and allows funds to be used to replace lost or delayed revenue. It also provides an additional \$436 billion to states and local governments. CCAO is asking Congress to pass compromise legislation before the election that would increase flexibility in the use of CARES Act Funds and provide additional support to local governments.

Members with questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org).

## **Upcoming Webinar: Auditing of CARES Act Funds – October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**

The Ohio Township Association, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, and County Commissioners Association of Ohio invite you to join Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber's office to discuss the CARES Act, accounting procedures, a review of how funds will be audited, and information on best practices and additional resources. The webinar will take place Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. [Click here](#) to register for this webinar.

## **ODOT data shows the impact of COVID-19 on the motor fuel tax**

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has released data showing the impact of COVID-19 on the amount of revenue collected by the state's motor fuel tax. Passenger car traffic fell to just 50 percent of 2019 levels in March and April, and was still running 16 percent lower as of July. Truck traffic fell by 20 percent in March and April, but recovered fully by July and was slightly ahead of 2019 levels. For state fiscal year 2020, these trends resulted in motor fuel tax collections 8.8 percent lower than expected. For the current fiscal year 2021, ODOT expects a reduction of 11 percent from previous estimates. ODOT expects the trend of reduced revenue to persist at least through FY 2025. For a copy of the presentation, click [here](#).

Members with questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org).

## **White House Briefing Call Registration – September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs will host a **COVID-19 National Briefing Call for State, Local, and Tribal Officials** on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. They will be joined by Senior Administration Officials – including Dr. Deborah Birx – for a comprehensive update on COVID-19 trends, Operation Warp Speed, testing support for States, Tribes, and localities, and the 2020-21 flu season.

Prior to the call, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would like to flag a letter from President Trump to the Nation's Governors outlining surged testing support to States. The Trump Administration is sending 100 million BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care tests across the country with each State receiving an allotment. Additional tests will be surged to nursing homes, HBCU's, and Tribes (via the IHS). You can read the letter here: [President Trump's Letter to America's Governors](#). And read more here: [President Trump Announces Distribution of 150M Rapid Coronavirus Tests](#).

## **Briefing Call Registration**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time (please note start time and time zone)

**Call-In Registration:** [CLICK HERE](#) (if you have already registered, please disregard)

**Note:** 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.

### **Recording and slides from Subgranting of CARES Act Funding Webinar available**

The recording and slides from the Subgranting of CARES Act Funding webinar are now available. Click [here](#) to access the recording and click [here](#) to access the slides. Thank you to OBM Director Kim Murnieks and Stacie Massey for presenting on this important topic.

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

### **Other Resources**

[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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:rmassoud@ccao.org).