

March 21, 2020 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.*

### **State Updates**

- The **Ohio Department of Health reported** 169 confirmed cases of coronavirus Friday in its daily update, up from 119 Thursday. Unfortunately, there was one death in Lucas County – a well-known attorney who previously served on the Lucas County Board of Elections.
- New actions in response to the coronavirus announced Friday by Governor DeWine include an order for **senior centers and senior adult day cares** to shut down by close of business Monday, and an order by the Ohio Department of Insurance granting **flexibility on health coverage**, including the allowance for employers to cover employees whose hours would otherwise fall short of minimums required for coverage.
- Ohio's Lt. Governor Husted is to issue the order that will allow all employers to take care of their employees' health insurance during the state's shutdown due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. Husted said the order will give employers a **two-month grace period to pay insurance premiums** to their insurance providers.
- The **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)** issued an order directing Ohio's electric, natural gas, water & wastewater distribution utilities to suspend any in-person meter reading activities, and any other non-essential work that would create unnecessary social contact. In its order, the Commission noted functions that are necessary to initiate new service or to ensure the continuity of service should be deemed essential and should continue during the state of emergency. Utility customers who have questions or concerns regarding their utility service are encouraged to contact the PUCO online at [PUCO.ohio.gov/contact-us](https://pucoco.ohio.gov/contact-us).
- Governor DeWine also issued a **warning to business owners** who are not complying with orders to take steps to protect employees from the spread of COVID-19. Although many businesses are heeding the advice of the Ohio Department of Health, others continue to ignore directives to keep distance between employees and keep a clean environment. Governor DeWine said, "As I continue to balance my responsibility to protect the people of Ohio with our attempt to keep this economy moving, let me make it clear that I will err on the side of protecting people. The bad, reckless behavior must stop."
- Video of Friday's full update from state officials can be viewed on the [Ohio Channel's website](#).

### **Federal Updates**

- U.S. Senators left on Friday night without a deal on a **federal stimulus package**. Talks will carry over into Saturday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has set up the first vote related to the package over the coronavirus for Sunday.
- On Friday, the President held his daily press conference and made several announcements related to the COVID-19 response at 11:45 a.m. EST. Press conferences from the White House are typically held daily at 11:30 a.m. EST and can be viewed at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live/>.

#### **The President's announcements included:**

- Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin announced at the President's directive, the Administration will move **Tax Day** from April 15 to July 15. The Ohio Department of Taxation is working quickly to evaluate the application to Ohio law.

- The Education Secretary will waive all interest on **federal student loans**, so borrowers can suspend their student loan payments without penalty for at least 60 days.
  - Interest rates on all federally-held students loans held by the Federal government will be set to 0% for at least 60 days.
  - Borrowers will also have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months during this national emergency.
  - Borrowers who are or become more than 31 days delinquent on their payments will receive an automatic suspension of payments.
- President Trump canceled the **G7 meeting at Camp David** and will make it a teleconference in June.
- The U.S. State Department is warning American citizens to **avoid all international travel**, issuing a Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory—the department’s highest-level travel alert. For those abroad, they are encouraged to return to the U.S. immediately if commercial flights are available OR prepare to shelter in place.
- US, Mexico & Canada have agreed to restrict all non-essential travel across our borders. **This does not include commerce, trade, or educational purposes.**
- The **National Institutes of Health** announced it is pausing all laboratory operations except for research related to COVID-19, care of human research participants and animals used in research, and other urgent needs. Other work will be conducted remotely to the extent possible.

#### More Federal Updates

- The **Federal Reserve** announced that it would extend its asset purchase program into municipal bonds.
- To help students and teachers impacted by school closures, the Administration will grant [waivers](#) to states for **Federal testing requirements for this school year**.
  - Any state that is unable to assess its students in accordance with federal testing requirements due to school closures may seek a waiver from the Department of Education.
  - This action will allow teachers to focus on adapting to remote learning and will help students prioritize staying healthy.
  - State and local leaders will have the flexibility to do what is best for the health and safety of their students and teachers.

Please see the below, under “Resources” for more detailed guidance from a variety of federal departments and agencies.

#### Local Updates

- According to Cleveland.com, up to 35 Cuyahoga County **sewer maintenance employees** walked off the job or called in sick Friday morning, citing coronavirus safety concerns. The county has called in second-shift workers to fill the gap. It will also enter into emergency contracts for supplemental sewer maintenance workers if necessary. The employees are all based out of the county’s Harvard garage, located in Newburgh Heights, which houses sanitary engineers, fleet services, and road and bridge maintenance. The county on Tuesday closed all **county buildings** to the public but said it would still maintain “critical services.”

## Resources

### Federal Guidance

- **WH** - President Donald J. Trump Is Taking Necessary Safety Measures at the Border to Prevent Further Spread of the Coronavirus ([Click here](#))
- **WH** - President Trump Announces More Actions to Confront Global Pandemic ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Caring for someone at home ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Older Adults ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - COVID-19: What people with HIV should know ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - FAQs about Hand Hygiene for Healthcare Personnel ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Communication Resources for Travelers ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - If You Are at Higher Risk ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Coronavirus and Travel in the United States ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Strategies for Optimizing Supply of N95 Respirators ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Schools, Workplaces & Community Locations ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - People with Asthma and COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Facemasks ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Strategies for Opt (Cimizing the Supply of Eye Protection ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Get Your Community- and Faith-Based Organizations Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Clean & Disinfect ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Homes and Residential Communities ([Click here](#))
- **CDC** - Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - FDA provides guidance on production of alcohol-based hand sanitizer to help boost supply, protect public health ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - FDA allows expanded use of devices to monitor patients' vital signs remotely ([Click here](#))
- **CMS** - CMS Approves Washington State's Request for 1135 Medicaid Waivers ([Click here](#))
- **DHS** - US-Canada Joint Initiative: Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing the US-Canada Land Border for Non-Essential Purposes ([Click here](#))
- **DHS** - Joint Statement on US-Mexico Joint Initiative to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury** - Treasury and IRS Issue Guidance on Deferring Tax Payments Due to COVID-19 Outbreak ([Click here](#))
- **DOD** - Chief of the National Guard Bureau Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel Press Briefing on COVID-19 Response ([Click here](#))
- **DOD** - Defense Health Officials Detail COVID-19 Aid Effort ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue Salutes the Heroes in the US Food Supply Chain ([Click here](#))
- **USDA** - USDA Rural Development Now in Enterprise-Wide Remote Operational Status ([Click here](#))
- **ED** - Helping Students Adversely Affected by School Closures, Secretary DeVos Announces Broad Flexibilities for States to Cancel Testing During National Emergency ([Click here](#))

- **ED** - Delivering on President Trump's Promise, Secretary DeVos Suspends Federal Student Loan Payments, Waives Interest During National Emergency ([Click here](#))
- **SBA** - SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to [Louisiana](#), [Colorado](#), [Tennessee](#), [Kentucky](#), [Vermont](#), [Mississippi](#) Small Businesses Economically Impacted by the Coronavirus
- **EPA** - Administrator Wheeler Meets with Disinfectant Manufacturers Highlighting Agency Work to Fight Coronavirus ([Click here](#))
- **HUD** - In Case You Missed It | Secretary Carson Applauds Governor for Taking Action to Protect Homeless ([Click here](#))
- **DOT** - PHMSA Guidance to State Partners Regarding COVID-19 ([Click here](#))
- **VA** - VA national cemeteries to adjust operations in response to COVID-19 ([Click here](#))