

March 23, 2020 – 11:45 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

State Updates

- There are 351 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state, according to new statistics from the Ohio Department of Health. The disease has been confirmed in 40 counties and has caused 83 hospitalizations. The number of coronavirus deaths continues to be three.
- It's been reported that the state received 139,468 unemployment applications from Sunday through Thursday last week; this is an increase over the 4,815 received over the same five-day period the previous week.
- The Governor announced that Department of Health Director Amy Acton M.D., MPH signed a "stay at home" order until April 6. The stay at home directive allows for some exceptions such as leaving home for essential activities, for health and safety, for needed supplies, for outdoor activity, certain types of essential work, and to care for others. The order lists essential businesses that will remain open during this time that will be subject to social distancing directives. The order, enforced by the local health departments and local law enforcement, goes into effect at 11:59 p.m. ET on March 23.
- The Governor also announced a day-care order that will last through April 30. Day-care centers around the state will operate under temporary pandemic child-care licenses starting March 26. The order limits rooms to six children at a time, requires rigorous cleaning of shared spaces, and limits parent interaction at drop-off and pickup.
- Please note Ohio's senior centers will be indefinitely closed after the end of business on Monday.
- As a reminder, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program is able to get businesses access to up to \$2 million in low-interest federal loans to help them stay afloat during the crisis.
- The Lt. Governor also made available resources to help employees who may wish to use this time to obtain online job training in order to qualify them for a different position once work can resume. You can find that information at Workforce.Ohio.gov and selecting "Training Resources."
- Voters can learn more about what's being done to safely bring Ohio's primary election to a conclusion at VoteOhio.gov/CoronaFacts.
- The Ohio Senate has notified its members to be on notice for a possible voting session today at the call of the chair, with three hours' advance notice.
- As of March 23, the Ohio House has scheduled session for Tuesday, March 24 at 1:00 p.m. They also have session scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on March 25 and 1:00 p.m. on March 26.

Federal Updates

- The Federal Reserve announced its plans to purchase an unlimited amount of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities. The Fed also plans to open three new facilities to purchase corporate and municipal debt.
- Also from The Hill, the next federal stimulus package is still being worked on. Democrats have pushed back on aspects of the nearly \$2 trillion package, including provisions that could allow companies to lay off workers.
- During Sunday's press briefing with members of the Coronavirus Task Force, President Trump provided several updates on the federal government's response to COVID-19:

- President Trump announced the activation of the National Guard to respond to COVID-19 in New York, California, and Washington State and that 100% of the costs of any deployment would be incurred by the federal government.
- President Trump announced that major state disaster declarations had been approved for New York, California, and Washington State. Medical supplies are in the process of being transferred to those states.
- President Trump announced that the naval hospital ship—the USNS Mercy—will be deployed to Los Angeles to add emergency surge medical capabilities. The Department of Defense estimates that the USNS Mercy can arrive within a week or less of today's order.
- The President announced the creation of a new public-private consortium organized by the White House, the Department of Energy, and IBM to utilize America's vast supercomputing power to aid researchers pursuing COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.
- Vice President Pence announced that as of today, approximately 254,000 Americans have undergone and received the results of their coronavirus tests, with slightly more than 30,000 testing positive.
- The Vice President also announced that the State Department has successfully facilitated the return travel of more than 30,000 Americans from overseas.
- Monday the President and members of the Coronavirus Task Force will host their press briefing at 5:30pm ET.

Local Updates

- Crain's Cleveland Business writes about shutdowns putting many local government entities in uncharted territory.
- Cleveland.com notes that the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority is suspending Park-N-Ride and downtown trolley services beginning Tuesday.