

March 31, 2020 – 11:00 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, small business owners are eligible to apply for an Economic Relief Disaster Loan advance up to \$10,000. Apply for the loan [HERE](#).
- As the Greater Cleveland Partnership and Council of Smaller Enterprises work with policymakers, we want to be prepared with your feedback to ensure our advocacy efforts are aligned with our members' needs. [See here for more information.](#)

State Updates

- The Ohio Department of Health reported 1,933 confirmed coronavirus cases and 39 deaths, with cases resulting in 475 hospitalizations and 163 intensive care unit admissions.
- As of March 30, at least 29 states are under strict stay-at-home orders; DeWine has been in contact with Governors from the bordering states on how to best prevent cross-border spread.
- Governor Mike DeWine Monday announced the Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton will sign an order extending school closings through Friday, May 1. They will reevaluate as that new deadline approaches.
- Governor DeWine will develop a business advisory group to convene by phone to:
 1. Ensure businesses are doing everything they can to keep their employees safe;
 2. Provide recommendations (to the greatest extent possible) to mitigate the negative impact the COVID-19 crisis is having on our economy in Ohio;
 3. Provide recommendations on building a platform for economic recovery.

More details on this group will be released.

- Governor DeWine announced today he has formed a "Homelessness Team" to help people who may rely on homeless shelters, domestic shelters, group homes, and recovery housing - all of which pose challenges for social distancing.
- Cleveland.com, among others, is reporting the Governor and Ohio's congressional delegation asked the President to declare Ohio a "major disaster" area because of the coronavirus; the designation would open up emergency federal funding to the state. Trump has signed off on disaster declarations for more than 20 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the District of Columbia in recent days.
- The Ohio General Assembly is extending their work from home policy until May 4 based on distancing guidelines.

- The Ohio Supreme Court issued an order which aligns time requirements as established by all Supreme Court-promulgated rules. [See here for FAQs on the order.](#)
- Ohio's Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced unpaid insurance premium installment amounts due for March, April, and May for the current policy year can be deferred until June 1, 2020. [Learn more here.](#)
- Last week, the Ohio 2020 Primary Election was extended to April 28, 2020. Request an absentee ballot to vote by mail: [Request Form](#)
- A coalition of voting groups filed a lawsuit in federal court Monday evening challenging provisions that extend absentee voting until April 28; the groups believe the changes create a cumbersome vote-by-mail process and will harm minority voters.
- The Ohio Lottery Commission reported that during the final two weeks of March, the Ohio Lottery will bring in about \$30 million less than it did during the same time period last year.

Federal Updates

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said Democrats' fourth phase of coronavirus stimulus would be focused on helping the front-line medical workers, homebound parents and patients afflicted by the deadly virus.
 - Democrats are also eyeing new funding for water, broadband, schools and other infrastructure systems that have proven insufficient, they said, in the face of the current coronavirus crisis.
- The President extended social distancing guidelines until the end of April. The guidelines were set to expire Tuesday and urge individuals to cancel nonessential travel and limit in-person gatherings to 10 people or fewer.
- Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) resigned from Congress Monday evening ahead of starting at the White House as President Trump's next chief of staff.
- House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez (D-N.Y.) said Monday that she has been diagnosed with a "presumed" case of the coronavirus, although she has not been officially tested.
- Last week, the third coronavirus-related package was approved by Congress and the President signed the legislation. GCP crafted a short two-page summary of the legislation, which [can be found here.](#)

Local Updates

- Mayor Frank Jackson's administration said Ohio notified Cleveland on Monday that nine more residents tested positive for coronavirus – this raises the total for Cleveland to 110. One person has died.
- The Cleveland cases are among 493 cases the state has reported for Cuyahoga County. Four people have died.

- [On Monday, Cuyahoga County had received 312 complaints about businesses not following Ohio's stay orders, according to the County Board of Health Commissioner.](#)
- [Some Summit County businesses were ordered to close, some of those opinions were also reversed.](#)