

March 28, 2020 – As of 10:30 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- DOL to Host Online Dialogue on Compliance Materials Needed for Expanded Paid Family and Medical Leave Requirements:
 - The U.S. Department of Labor will be hosting a national online dialogue to provide employers and employees with an innovative opportunity to offer their perspective as the Department develops compliance assistance materials and outreach strategies related to the implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The ideas and comments gathered from this dialogue will inform compliance assistance guidance, resources, and tools, as well as outreach approaches, that assist employers and employees in understanding their responsibilities and rights under the FFCRA. DOL needs your input by March 29, 2020. Those interested can participate online at <https://ffcra.ideascale.com> from March 23 through March 29, 2020 or can join a Twitter chat hosted by [@ePolicyWorks](#) on March 25, 2020 at 2 p.m. using the hashtag #EPWChat. For more information on the requirements of FFCRA, please visit: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>.
- The State of Ohio created a site for Ohio businesses and individuals to find information and resources related to the coronavirus. See [link](#)

State Updates

- The latest update on coronavirus from the Ohio Department of Health shows 1,137 confirmed cases and 19 deaths, with 276 hospitalizations and 107 intensive care unit admissions. This is a 60% jump in confirmed cases over a two-day period and a 90% increase in the number of deaths. The number of cases in Cuyahoga County rose to 330 as of Friday, however these numbers may be impacted by residents from outside Cuyahoga County that are tested at locations inside the County.
- The Ohio Department of Health has made substantial improvements to the state website coronavirus.ohio.gov in recent days. They continue to build out and share resources through this platform, including a new [dashboard](#) showcasing some of the key statistics.
- Following unanimous votes in both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate earlier in the week, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 197 into law on Friday afternoon. A summary of the emergency legislation can be found [here](#). GCP issued a [letter](#) to the Governor on Friday highlighting the Northeast Ohio business community's appreciation for the swift work on the bill. The main provisions of the bill impacting businesses are below:

On unemployment, the state measure codifies the following:

- Waives first week waiting period

- Changes eligibility to include COVID-19 related unemployment situations
- Waives work search requirement

On the tax filing, it aligns Ohio with the federal government:

- Moving the tax filing deadline from April 15th to July 15th
 - Extends date for estimated payments
 - Waives interest payments (penalties already able to be waived)
 - Not withstands the “20-day rule” under municipal income tax for employees working from home during the health emergency plus 30 days
 - Extends due date of the state-administered municipal net profit tax
- The aforementioned law also modified the statutes surrounding the Ohio primary originally planned for March 17th. The provision extends absentee voting by mail until April 28th. An absentee ballot can be requested [here](#). As a result of the passage of the law, the Ohio Democratic Party dropped its lawsuit against Secretary of State Frank LaRose challenging the authority to cancel in-person voting on the original date.
 - On Thursday, Speaker Larry Householder announced the creation of a bipartisan task force to prepare the state for economic recovery following the coronavirus challenges. In a prepared statement Speaker Householder said, “we don’t know yet when the COVID-19 situation will improve to the point that Ohio businesses can reopen and people can get back to work, but we need to prepare now for the future.” The Speaker also encouraged the Governor to form a task force of employers.
 - Lt. Governor Husted announced a new “Ohio. Find It Here.” campaign to support businesses in the state challenged with the coronavirus. Among other highlights, the site features Ohio restaurants offering carryout, retailers, and virtual activities. More information [here](#).
 - The Administration is asking residents and businesses who can donate personal protective equipment to [reach out](#). Additional details [here](#).
 - Governor DeWine, Speaker Householder and Senate President Obhof announced the “State of the State” address planned for next week (March 31st) would be postponed.
 - At the Friday daily coronavirus press conference, Governor DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton spoke at length about the anticipated pace of the spread of the disease. They spoke of recent conversations with Cleveland Clinic and Ohio State University who are modeling scenarios for the spread of the disease. The Administration is anticipating the disease will peak in mid-May. At the time, we should expect to see roughly 6,000 to 10,000 confirmed cases daily. The Administration is working closely with the hospital and health care community to drastically expand capacity across the state. There is a sense that 2 to 3 times our existing healthcare capacity will be needed when the disease peaks in Ohio. The state has been divided into six regions and regional plans are being prepared and finalized to address this drastic increased need in capacity. Draft plans were due to the Administration today and a final plan is expected by Monday.

Federal Updates

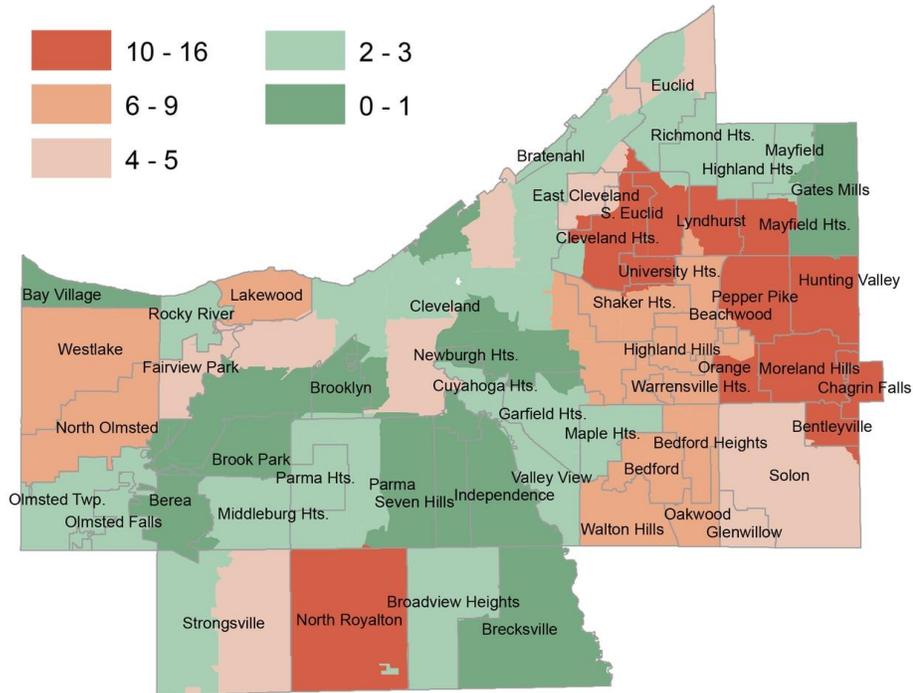
- On Friday morning, the U.S. House approved the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This measure had been passed unanimously by the U.S. Senate the prior day. President Trump signed the legislation late Friday afternoon.
- The \$2.2 trillion, 800-page stimulus package will provide additional support to businesses of all size, provide direct payments to individual taxpayers, enhance benefits to individuals out of work, add financial resources to state and local governments, and assist hospitals with funding.
- GCP crafted a short (2-pg.) summary of the legislation, which can be found [here](#).
- GCP appreciates the efforts of the entire Ohio Congressional delegation in passing the CARES Act. Particular thanks go to Senators Portman and Brown and Representatives Kaptur, Joyce, Fudge, and Gonzalez for acting swiftly to support the Northeast Ohio community.
- The President announced that Peter Navarro, Assistant to the President, Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, will serve as the Administration's policy coordinator for the Defense Production Act. GCP has already been in touch with Mr. Navarro's office on issues impacting Northeast Ohio.

Local Updates

- The Cuyahoga County Board of Health released coronavirus case information by zip code. Click the below map to view [Cleveland.com](#) reporting on this issue.

Confirmed Cuyahoga County coronavirus cases

Categorized by ZIP code; city lines shown for reference



Source: Cuyahoga County and Ohio Department of Health

RICH EXNER/CLEVELAND.COM

- Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish announced the creation of a small business stabilization fund. Details are still being developed.
- Cleveland City Council leaders are discussing efforts to provide additional support to businesses and residents struggling with impacts related to the coronavirus. See [link](#)