GCP Advocacy: COVID-19 Daily Update

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Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

<div align="center">Resources</div>

Information for Businesses:
- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
- Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities
- SBA: COVID-19 Resources
- DOL: Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for Coronavirus
- DOL: OHSA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19
- WHO: Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19
- CISA: Risk Management for COVID-19
- EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19

Information for Healthcare Providers, First Responders, and Research Facilities:
- Information for Healthcare Professionals
- Resources for State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments
- Resources for Healthcare Facilities
- Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with COVID-19 or Persons Under Investigation in Healthcare Settings
- Information for Laboratories
- Resources for First Responders
- Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People with COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals
- FAQs and Considerations for Patient Triage, Placement and Hospital Discharge
- Guidance for Homeless Shelters
- Guidance for Hemodialysis Facilities
- CMS: Information on COVID-19 and Current Emergencies
- CMS: Guidance for Hospice Agencies
- CMS: Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act Requirements and Implications Related to COVID-19
- CMS: FAQs for State Survey Agency and Accrediting Organizations
- EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19

Information for Schools and Childcare Providers:
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools
- Resources for Institutes of Higher Education
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities
- DOEd: Resources for Schools and School Personnel
- EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19

- On Friday, the Ohio Department of Health reported an increase of 18 deaths from coronavirus and 366 additional cases, reaching 231 deaths and 5,878 total cases, compared to 213 and 5,512 on Thursday, respectively. Cases have resulted in 1,755 hospitalizations and 548 intensive care unit admissions.

- During an emergency virtual meeting on Friday, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) approved $1.6 billion in dividend payments to Ohio employers – most of which, $1.4 billion, will benefit private employers. Dividend checks will go out in batches to employers this month. For more information, read Ohio BWC's FAQs and press release issued on Friday.
  - Later on Friday, BWC announced it is postponing this year's enrollment period for employers to select a managed care organization (MCO) to manage their injury claims. Offered every two years in the spring, the enrollment period is an opportunity for employers to select a new MCO that may best fit their needs. The official enrollment period, scheduled for April 27 – May 22, will now occur May 3 – May 28, 2021. Further questions may be directed to BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us

- Many Ohio distilleries are producing large quantities of hand sanitizer and JobsOhio has purchased more than 3,100 cases of distillery-made sanitizer.

- Lt. Governor Husted announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted STERIS, a northeast Ohio company, a temporary Emergency Use Authorization for decontaminating compatible N95 and N95-equivalent respirators by utilizing V-PRO Sterilizers. Additional information can be found here.

- Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in partnership with Ohio's Managed Care Plans announced an emergency amendment to ODM's provider agreement. The updated agreement will impact pharmacy benefits, telehealth services and service authorization requirements. These changes are intended to remove barriers to care, and to safeguard individual health and wellbeing while reducing burdens on hospitals and providers. ODM's emergency provider agreement can be read here.

- Both Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton said Thursday Ohioans will start to hear more details of the plan to emerge from coronavirus-induced isolation next week.

- On Thursday, Governor DeWine announced 19 Ohio manufacturing companies and three hospital groups working with JobsOhio will make up to one million face shields for frontline health-care workers battling the coronavirus.

- The Ohio House of Representatives announced that State Representatives Jamie Callender and Scott Oelslager will serve as co-chairs of the House Finance Committee going forward.

- As previously reported, the Ohio General Assembly has put in place a plan that will allow all Ohioans to continue voting by mail until April 28. See the Ohio Secretary of State's webpage for more information.

Federal Updates

- The Federal Reserve took additional actions to provide up to $2.3 trillion in loans to support the economy. This funding will assist households and employers of all sizes and bolster the ability of state and local governments to deliver critical services during the coronavirus pandemic. Here are the details:
  - The **Main Street Lending Program** will enhance support for small and mid-sized businesses that were in good financial standing before the crisis by offering 4-year loans to companies employing up to 10,000 workers or with revenues of less than $2.5 billion. Principal and interest payments will be deferred for one year. Firms seeking Main Street loans must commit to making reasonable efforts to maintain payroll and retain workers. Borrowers must also follow compensation, stock repurchase, and dividend restrictions that apply to direct loan programs under the CARES Act. Firms that have taken advantage of the PPP may also take out Main Street loans. More information from the Federal Reserve Board can be found here.
  - The **Municipal Liquidity Facility** will allow the Fed to purchase up to $500 billion in short-term notes directly from states, counties with a population of at least two million residents, and cities with a population of at least one million residents. More information from the Federal Reserve Board can be found here.

- On Friday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services began delivery of initial CARES Act relief to providers. For a GCP summary of the CARES Act click here. As GCP reported in March, yesterday's relief is part of the following healthcare system and related support highlights included in the CARES Act:
  - $100B for healthcare providers for coronavirus related expenses and lost revenue.
  - $4.3B for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for coronavirus related issues.
  - Health insurance plans to reimburse for coronavirus testing.
  - Planned reductions in Disproportionate Share hospital payments.
  - Medical product provisions (drug/device supply chain and shortages, medial supply stockpiles, liability),
  - The promotion of telehealth technologies.

- See here for a separate letter and FAQs sent by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar to hospital administrators. The letter underscores the importance of data-sharing.

- The Food & Drug Administration issued the second emergency use authorization (EUA) to decontaminate compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators for reuse by health care workers in hospital settings. This EUA will reportedly support decontamination of approximately 750,000 N95 respirators per day in the U.S.

- The Department of the Treasury and the IRS launched "Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here," a web portal where Americans who did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 can submit basic personal information to the IRS so that they can receive economic impact payments. Go to IRS.gov and click on the "Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here" button and please follow the directions closely.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued interim guidance to the Agency's regional offices on decisions about new or ongoing cleanup activities at sites across the country.

- The U.S. EPA on Thursday announced it will use the extra $20 million that Congress allotted for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative this year to address invasive species control and prevention, restore habitats, remediate environmental problems that it previously designated "Areas of Concern," and address nutrients that enter the lake and cause harmful algal blooms.

- About 64 million households across the nation are beginning to receive paper questionnaires, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; they can also choose to respond online.

- Public health experts are pushing back against suggestions the Trump administration could relax social distancing measures and open much of the country by May 1, warning that acting too soon will risk a resurgence of the virus.

Local Updates

- According to Mayor Frank Jackson's administration twenty-three new cases of coronavirus were reported in Cleveland Friday. The new cases increased the city's total of people confirmed positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus to 282.

- Cuyahoga County requested area businesses donate computers and computer accessories to help Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) students take advantage of online education during the statewide school closure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses interested in scheduling a pickup of computer equipment can contact PCs for People at (216) 406-6475.

- Cleveland.com: The Cleveland Clinic said it will send healthcare workers to hospitals in New York and Michigan to help with the staggering number of coronavirus cases the states are seeing as the pandemic spreads.