

April 16, 2020 – 9:00 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- Funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a small business lending program, is projected to expire Thursday; Congress remains in talks over whether to provide additional funding. Through April 13, 2020, the SBA has guaranteed 1,035,086 loans under the Paycheck Protection Program. See a summary [here](#).
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is launching the [Save Small Business Fund](#) with Vistaprint to provide assistance to small business owners impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
 - With contributions from corporate and philanthropic partners, the Chamber Foundation will distribute \$5,000 grants to small employers in the U.S. and its territories.
 - Grant applications will open on April 20, 2020. For information on eligibility, grant timeline, and more, visit savesmallbusiness.com.
- Ohioans can apply for unemployment benefits online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at unemployment.ohio.gov. It is also possible to file by phone at 877-644-6562 or TTY at 888- 642-8203, Monday through Friday 7AM to 7PM, Saturday 9AM to 5PM, and Sunday 9AM to 1PM. Employers with questions should email UCTech@jfs.ohio.gov.

State Updates

- On Wednesday, the state reported the total number of COVID-19 cases in Ohio increased by 511 from Tuesday to Wednesday, to reach 7,791 cases.
 - The number of deaths increased by 37 over the past day, reaching a total of 361 in the state.
 - That includes two more deaths at the Pickaway Correctional Institution which are considered "probable" from COVID-19, pending the results of tests.
 - There has been a total of 2,237 hospitalizations with 677 ICU admissions.
- For the week ending April 11, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 158,678 initial unemployment claims, taking the state's total over the last four weeks to 855,197. "To put that in perspective, the total for the last four weeks of claims is 139,685 more than the combined total of 715,512 for the last two years," ODJFS said.
- The Ohio Supreme Court ordered the Ohio Ballot Board to certify a statewide ballot campaign to expand voter access as a single issue.
 - The ruling overturns the board's decision that split it into four questions.
 - The ACLU-backed campaign has joined another court case seeking permission to collect electronic signatures – or asking to waive signature requirements altogether.
- Lt. Governor Husted announced that by the end of next week, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will be able to begin processing the additional \$600-a-week payments authorized by the federal CARES Act.

- ODJFS also plans to launch an online tool that will allow self-employed, 1099 workers to get in line early, so that as soon as they have the technological ability to process their claims, they will already have their paperwork in and be in line for review; the department expects to be able to begin processing those claims by May 15, 2020.
- On Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said ensuring adequate supplies of PPE and cleaning products is one of the steps to reopen non-essential businesses, and that this process will be an “incremental rollback.”
- The following documents are linked to below: a checklist for safe food handling for retail food stores, restaurants, and pick-up and delivery services; modeling FAQs; a checklist for companies purchasing antibody test kits; and a checklist for long term care facilities notifying residents and their families of positive COVID-19 tests.
 - Safe food handling is [here](#).
 - Modeling FAQ is [here](#).
 - Antibody checklist is [here](#).
 - Long term care is [here](#).
- In addition to previous emergency measures taken by the Ohio Department of Medicaid to help increase access to healthcare for millions of Ohioans, Governor DeWine announced Tuesday that his administration is submitting its first waiver application to the federal government, known as 1135 or Appendix K, to provide the needed flexibility to address this crisis.
 - The waiver aims to allow Ohio to bolster telehealth and other technology to be used to do health assessments and care planning; waive signature requirements for a variety of providers to ensure safe distancing without compromising access to care; ease obstacles to access nursing home care; allow services to be provided at alternative locations; and remove staffing level requirements to give providers more flexibility.
 - Once the federal government approves the waiver, it will be retroactively applied from March 1, 2020.
- In response to a question on forthcoming state agency budget cuts, Governor DeWine told *Hannah News* he was discussing that with legislators and more details would be coming in the next few days. Maintaining coronavirus response funding would be a high priority, he added.
- A bill to distribute funding made available through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act is among several pieces of priority legislation that Ohio Senators have been working on during the last several weeks, Senate President Larry Obhof said Tuesday.
 - “For example, Senator Matt Huffman has a proposal related to liquor licenses.”
 - He also pointed to SB 301 as a priority, saying additional measures to stop price gouging are critical during a pandemic.
 - Obhof also noted forthcoming legislation from Senator Steve Huffman, which would allow physicians to delegate more authority to pharmacist collaborators, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.
 - The Senate President said he doesn’t currently have plans to form a panel similar to the Ohio House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force, but that doesn’t mean Senators haven’t been working on many of the same issues over this time.

- When the Senate does meet again, Obhof said he anticipates the chamber will employ social distancing policies similar to those used last month. He also pointed out that while recently passed emergency legislation allows certain local government bodies and other state boards and commissions to meet remotely, it didn't change the law with regard to the General Assembly's requirement to vote in-person at the Statehouse.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Ohio House's COVID-19 task force met via teleconference. The Ohio House Economic Recovery Task Force, also now being referred to as the Ohio 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force, has set a meeting for Thursday at 12:30 p.m. on the Ohio Channel.
- As a reminder, the Ohio Dispute Resolution Commission will evaluate and render guidance in situations where two local health departments have come to a different conclusion for similar businesses on what is or is not an essential business. To submit a dispute, fill out this [Dispute Resolution Form](#). For questions, email Dispute.Resolution@odh.ohio.gov.

Federal Updates

- As of Wednesday afternoon, global coronavirus cases have now surpassed 2 million with 129,045 lives have been lost to the virus; more than 26,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus.
- U.S. House Democrats are hoping to vote Friday on the next round of coronavirus relief, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said Wednesday, but disagreements over the process may push it to next week.
 - When the crisis presumably subsides, Congress then may attempt to pivot from emergency rescues toward more economic stimulus, which could include a significant infrastructure package.
- The White House plans to release guidelines on Thursday to inform states on how to relax coronavirus restrictions and reopen businesses.
- The President announced "Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups ... will work together with the White House to chart the path forward toward a future of ... American prosperity."
- U.S. Treasury and the IRS unveiled an online application to help with Economic Impact Payments. "Get My Payment" allows people to provide direct deposit information, gives a payment date, and is available only on IRS.gov.
- On Tuesday, the federal banking agencies issued an interim final rule to temporarily defer real estate-related appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' interagency appraisal regulations. The Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency are providing this temporary relief to allow regulated institutions to extend financing to creditworthy households and businesses quickly in the wake of the national emergency declared in connection with COVID-19.
- The Department of Health and Human Services will publish this document in the Federal Register regarding liability protections under existing public health statute for the manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of covered medical countermeasures. This is an

amendment to the original declaration and aims to extend liability immunity for activities related to medical countermeasures against COVID-19.

- According to Senator Rob Portman, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new ventilator for coronavirus patients produced by a new Cleveland company called SecondBreath LLC.

Additional Federal Guidance (As of April 15, 2020 at 5 p.m.):

- **HHS** - The Administration for Children and Families to Release Funding to Support the Child Care and Development Block Grant ([Click here](#))
- **CMS** - CMS Increases Medicare Payment for High-Production Coronavirus Lab Tests ([Click here](#))
- **FDA** - [April 13](#) Daily Roundup and [April 14](#) Daily Roundup
- **NIH** - NIH study validates decontamination methods for re-use of N95 respirators ([Click here](#))
- **DHS-FEMA** - FEMA announces funding notice for Emergency Management Performance Grant Supplemental Allocation ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury** - Statement by Secretary Mnuchin on the Payroll Support Program ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury** - “Get My Payment” Web App Launched for Americans to Submit Direct Deposit Information and Track Payments ([Click here](#))
- **Treasury** - Supplemental Security Income Recipients Will Receive Automatic COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments ([Click here](#))
- **DOL** - Interim Enforcement Response Plan for Coronavirus Disease 2019 ([Click here](#))
- **DOL** - U.S. Department of Labor Takes Action to Help American Workers During the Coronavirus Pandemic ([Click here](#))
- **DOL** - U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$91.8 Million Funding Opportunity To Assist America’s Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers ([Click here](#))
- **HUD** - HUD Implements New CARES Act Multifamily Mortgage Payment Relief to Maintain and Preserve Affordable Rental Housing ([Click here](#))
- **HUD** - CARES Act Flexibilities for CDBG Funds Used to Support Coronavirus Response ([Click here](#))
- **HUD** - New Section 108 Q&A Document for Assisting Business Borrowers Experiencing Distress as a Result of the Coronavirus ([Click here](#))
- **HUD** - HUD Issues Memoranda on Suspensions and Waivers for HOME Program COVID-19 Response ([Click here](#))
- **DOE** - DOE Announces Crude Oil Storage Contracts to Help Alleviate U.S. Oil Industry Storage Crunch ([Click here](#))
- **DOJ** - Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission Jointly Issue Statement on COVID-19 and Competition in U.S. Labor Markets ([Click here](#))
- **EXIM** - EXIM Board Takes Action in Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic by Temporarily Restricting Export Support for Needed U.S. Medical Supplies and Equipment ([Click here](#))

Local Updates

- There are no nonstop flights between Cleveland Hopkins and New York City for now; all three airlines that fly between the two cities have discontinued the routes because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- MetroHealth has begun sterilizing approximately 50,000 N95 or KN95 masks per day to help address shortages of the critical medical gear amid the coronavirus pandemic.

- An Oberlin company has created and received emergency FDA approval for a machine that weans coronavirus patients off ventilators, easing a potential shortage of the expensive, life-saving machines during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Oberlin-based Synapse Biomedical worked with Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals to gain approval for the device.
- The Paradox Prize is working to connect available transportation assets around the region and across the state to nonprofits with COVID-related mobility needs. Nonprofits and transportation providers equipped to assist can go to paradoxprize.com to fill out a short form and immediately access information related to their service area.