

April 21, 2020 – 8:30 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- Those receiving federal benefits – including Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Veterans Administration benefits – who have children **and** who weren't required to file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 should visit the [Non-Filer: Enter Payment Info Here too!](#) on IRS.gov.
 - By quickly taking steps to enter information on the IRS website, they can receive the \$500 per dependent child payment automatically in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment.
 - Otherwise, their payment at this time will be \$1,200 and, by law, the additional \$500 per eligible child amount would be paid in association with a return filing for tax year 2020.
- As a reminder, SharedWork Ohio (SWO) is a voluntary layoff avoidance program that allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. To apply for a SWO plan go to www.unemployment.ohio.gov
- [Click here](#) to view the U.S. Chamber's new Independent Contractor's Guide to CARES Act Relief.

State Updates

- According to the numbers reported Monday by the Ohio Department of Health, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the state increased by nearly 4,000 from Friday to Monday, to reach 12,919 cases.
 - The number of deaths increased by 91 over the weekend, reaching a total of 509 in the state.
 - There have been a total of 2,653 hospitalizations with 798 ICU admissions.
- Governor Mike DeWine said he's been told by numerous small business owners that one thing they can't endure is having the state lift restrictions only to reimpose them again a few weeks later.
- As the GCP Advocacy Team and GCP members continued to offer the Governor's office and the legislature feedback and information throughout last week on possible protocols and best practices to be used in advance of a state "reopening" for specific businesses in certain industries, Ohioans will likely learn more details soon on Ohio's phased-in process that will begin May 1.
- Governor DeWine announced K-12 schools in Ohio will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year.
 - No decisions have been made regarding if schools will reopen in the fall.
 - An option may be considered of blended learning – a mix of in-person and online classes – as an option for the fall.

- DeWine also said he's made no decision yet on whether and when to allow daycare centers to re-open.
- Because COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting minority groups in Ohio and across the country, Governor DeWine announced he has formed a new Minority Health Strike Force; a list of individuals serving on the Minority Health Strike Force can be found [here](#).
- Ahead of its Monday meeting, the Ohio 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force of the House of Representatives launched a website where small business owners can fill out witness slips to request to testify before the committee. Video footage from past meetings, copies of testimony, as well as task force agendas and schedules can also be found on the website. The website can be accessed at Ohio2020.OhioHouse.Gov.
- As a reminder, Ohio's voting deadline is April 28. Please note the following from Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's office:
 - The time is now to request a ballot. Don't wait.
 - Learn how to get it done by visiting VoteOhio.gov.
 - Make sure your ballot is postmarked before April 28.

Federal Updates

- New federal legislation is expected to *approach* \$500 billion to deal with the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Democratic lawmakers are demanding \$30 billion for a national coronavirus testing program and \$150 billion to fund state and local governments that have seen costs soar and revenues drop over the past month and a half; the local government issue is said to be contentious.
 - As of Monday evening, the \$470 billion package is expected to include \$370 billion to replenish the small business loan program, with \$75 billion going to hospitals, and \$25 billion set aside for testing.
 - Senator Rick Scott (FL) said in a statement on Monday that larger companies are qualifying for small business loans under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and he recommended changes in the program.
 - Senator Marco Rubio (FL) also expressed concern about reports of misuse by applicants of the PPP, announcing the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, which he chairs, will conduct oversight many months from now to determine "whether companies made false certifications to the federal government to receive PPP loans."
- The U.S., Mexico, and Canada have each agreed to [extend restrictions](#) on non-essential travel across shared borders for 30 additional days.
- On Monday, the President said he will sign an executive order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States amid the coronavirus pandemic. He offered no details as to what immigration programs might be affected by the order. The possible move would very likely prompt legal challenges.
- Now effective, a U.S. Department of Defense [travel extension](#) order was approved through June 30 to aid in the further prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

- The Census Bureau announced recently it is seeking statutory relief from Congress for 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts for the 2020 Census.
- Oil prices sunk to their lowest level in history Monday, dropping into negative pricing as supplies overwhelm the globe's storage capacity.

Local Updates

- The Cuyahoga County Board of Control approved up to \$47,000 to staff a county Small Business Resource Center, a call center offering coronavirus-related assistance to small businesses.
 - The call center will continue until the end of May and could be extended if needed.