

May 11, 2020 – 8:30 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- With steps underway to speed Economic Impact Payments, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service urged people to use [Get My Payment](#) by noon May 13, for a chance at quicker delivery.
 - Stay informed with Economic Impact Payment FAQs and social media platforms - taxpayers should check the Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) for more information.
- The second round of applications for funding with the Cuyahoga County Small Business Stabilization Fund opened last week and closes on May 15 at 5 p.m.
 - The program provides grants from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to small businesses with up to 25 employees. This round will distribute \$2 million to as many as 600 businesses. Businesses that applied but were not selected for a first round grant are welcome to reapply for the second round by completing the new application.
 - Fill out the simple application to be considered. To access the online application, click [HERE](#).
- Notice to Employers from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services: If you have employees who do not return to work or resign, it is important to let the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) know so accurate eligibility determinations can be made.
 - To report these occurrences, please visit <https://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/employer/> and click on “Return to Work Guidelines.”
 - This will take you to a web page to report employees for investigation by the ODJFS.

State Updates

- By [Sunday](#), 24,081 Ohioans had been infected with the coronavirus and 1,341 had died.
- From the Governor’s Office here are five protocols for all businesses:
 - Require face coverings for employees and recommend them for clients/customers at all times.
 - Conduct daily health assessments by employers and employees (self-evaluation) to determine if “fit for duty.”
 - Maintain good hygiene at all times – hand washing, sanitizing and social distancing.
 - Clean and sanitize workplaces throughout workday and at the close of business or between shifts.
 - Limit capacity to meet social distancing guidelines.
 - Establish maximum capacity at 50% of fire code.
 - And, use appointment setting where possible to limit congestion.
- Governor Mike DeWine announced at his Thursday briefing that places of business such as hair salons, barbershops, day spas, nail salons, and tanning facilities may reopen on May 15.
 - A list of mandatory and recommended best practices for personal services is [here](#).

- In addition, restaurants and bars can open for outside dining on May 15 with indoor dining opening on May 21.
 - Detailed lists of guidelines are [here](#), and best practices are [here](#).
- On Monday, the Governor said he'll have an announcement about childcare.
- Under previously announced reopening plans, elective surgeries without an overnight hospital stay resumed May 1, manufacturing, distribution, construction and general office businesses reopened May 4 and consumer, retail and services businesses will reopen on May 12.
- According to Crain's Cleveland, the Ohio Department of Health plans to screen 1,200 residents in their homes for the virus through a nasal swab test and through an antibody blood test.
 - Screening may start as soon as next week.
 - Selected households will receive a postcard and a letter in the mail.
 - Participation is voluntary and recipients may opt out by phone or email or decline to participate when the state workers arrive.
- The Ohio Department of Health is looking to fill open "contact tracing" jobs, part-time health workers who will help investigate small coronavirus outbreaks to try to prevent them from spreading.
 - The first is a [contact tracer position](#) and the second is a [supervisory job](#).

Federal Updates

- The April jobs report released Friday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the U.S. lost 20.5 million jobs in April.
 - The unemployment rate increased to 14.7 percent from 4.4 percent in March.
 - The one-month rise in the unemployment rate between March and April is the largest ever recorded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Last week, the U.S. Treasury and IRS released the latest state-by-state Economic Impact Payment figures and almost 5 million payments had been made to Ohioans, totaling more than \$8 billion.
- White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow signaled Friday that formal negotiations on the next coronavirus stimulus package would be paused, possibly until early June.
 - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi delayed the unveiling of Congressional Democrats CARES 2.0 package until this week; House Democrats are hoping to release a bill that would follow three pillars: funding for those on the front lines, testing and relief to Americans in some form, including direct payments. The proposal could include at least \$800 billion in funding for state and local governments.
 - Senate Leader Mitch McConnell has called for a pause on emergency assistance until the trillions already allocated is delivered and Senate Republicans are said to insist on including language to protect businesses from virus-related lawsuits and liability.

- According to the Associated Press, Vice President Mike Pence was self-isolating Sunday after an aide tested positive for the coronavirus last week, but he planned to return to the White House on Monday.
 - An administration official said Pence was voluntarily keeping his distance from other people in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - He has tested negative for COVID-19 since his exposure.

Local Updates

- [Coronavirus delays, reopenings and restrictions in Northeast Ohio for Monday, May 11, 2020.](#)
- The City of Cleveland is extending payment deadlines for the following excise tax returns to alleviate administrative burden for businesses that are facing operational impacts from the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency:
 - Admissions tax due April 30, May 30 and June 30
 - Motor Vehicle Lessor (rental car) tax due April 30, May 31 and June 30
 - Parking tax due April 20, May 20 and June 20
 - Transient Occupancy (hotel or lodging) tax due April 30, May 31 and June 30

The Commissioner of the Division of Assessments and Licenses is authorized to extend excise tax (admissions, parking, motor vehicle lessor and transient occupancy) payment deadlines to July 20 in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) national pandemic. Federal, state and local governments have employed various strategies to propose due date relief to businesses through tax guidance and legislation.

This proposal extends the April, May and June excise tax payment due dates to July 20th without incurring interest and penalties. The goal is to provide cash flow flexibility to taxpayers that cannot timely pay their excise tax obligation and provide guidance to individual taxpayer(s) through administrative rulings to address issues resulting from the national pandemic on a case by case request including statutory timing deadlines of administrative processes.

- The Cleveland Orchestra announced it has canceled all of its scheduled performances this summer – in July, August and early September – due to the COVID-19 pandemic.