

May 20, 2020 – 8:30 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- The employee retention credit is designed to encourage businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The amount of the credit is 50% of qualified wages paid up to an annual limit of \$10,000, which equals a maximum credit amount of \$5,000 for each employee for the year. Eligible employers are employers who operate a trade or business and has experienced one of these:
 - Fully or partially suspended operations because of a government order due to COVID-19
 - A significant decline in gross receipts in a calendar quarter when compared to 2019
- As of May 19, here are the latest FAQs for the Paycheck Protection Program.
- The latest Paycheck Protection Program Report, through May 16, 2020, can be found here.
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) is providing coronavirus recovery materials in various languages here.
- The SBA also released a new Interim Final Rule Monday creating a new safe harbor for applicants with foreign affiliates whose eligibility certifications were technically incorrect.

State Updates

- The Ohio Department of Health reported Tuesday that cases of coronavirus increased by 498 and deaths increased by 63 from Monday, reaching respective totals of 28,952 and 1,720. Cases have resulted in 5,117 hospitalizations and 1,357 intensive care unit admissions.
- The Ohio House and Senate held numerous committee meetings on Tuesday. The Ohio House and Ohio Senate will meet for session today.
 - Civil immunity legislation in the Ohio House, HB 606, and Ohio Senate, SB 308, will receive continued hearings. HB 606 received its third hearing for all testimony in House Civil Justice Committee yesterday. The bill is scheduled to have a fourth hearing for all testimony and a substitute bill today at 9:00 a.m. SB 308 will receive its third hearing for all testimony, with amendments and a vote possible, in Senate Judiciary Committee today at 9:15 a.m. GCP advocacy staff remains in close contact with legislative leaders as proceedings progress.
- Governor DeWine released details of the new "Ohioans Protecting Ohioans Urgent Health Advisory" which replaces the Stay Safe Ohio order that was issued by the Ohio Department of Health on April 30, 2020.
 - The health order replaces language requiring Ohioans to stay at home with limited exceptions with language that strongly recommends that citizens, especially those who are high-risk, stay at home as much as possible.
 - The order does not change the mass gathering restrictions, which remain at a 10-person limit.

- The new health advisory also lifts overall travel restrictions and the requirement to quarantine if someone travels to or returns to Ohio.
 - Unnecessary travel within or outside of Ohio is not encouraged.
 - The Administration will share a copy of the order as soon as possible.
- Additionally, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not recovered, those who are presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19, and those who are exhibiting the symptoms identified in the screening guidance available from the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health, remain prohibited from entering the state of Ohio unless they are doing so under medical orders for purposes of medical care, are being transported by emergency medical services EMS, are driving or being driven directly to a medical provider for the purposes of initial care, or are a permanent resident of Ohio.
- Governor DeWine also [announced](#) that the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) will begin distributing at least 2 million non-medical-grade face coverings to Ohio employers who are covered by BWC.
 - Public and private employers that participate in the State Insurance Fund will receive a package from BWC containing at least 50 face coverings.
 - These packages will be shipped in batches beginning tomorrow.
 - The masks are funded through BWC's existing budget and will not impact any premiums.
- Responsible RestartOhio documents: day camps are [here](#), pools and aquatic centers are [here](#), golf courses are [here](#), gyms, dance studios and fitness centers are [here](#), baseball and softball leagues are [here](#), and tennis courts are [here](#).
- There are now printable posters and forms for employers/businesses to download and use [here](#).
- Governor DeWine announced that he is assembling an enforcement team to ensure that bars and restaurants are operating safely under the Responsible RestartOhio plan.
 - The enforcement team will operate as part of the Ohio Department of Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and will conduct safety compliance checks in crowded bars and restaurants.
 - Businesses found violating the Stay Safe Ohio order or the Dine Safe Ohio order will receive administrative citations that could result in the revocation of liquor licenses.
 - The OIU team will also work with municipal prosecutors to take potential criminal actions against business owners who do not follow the order, which includes the requirement that patrons remain seated while eating/drinking and that parties stay six feet apart.

Federal Updates

- Total U.S. coronavirus deaths reported each morning this week: Monday, 89,564. Tuesday, 90,369. Wednesday, 91,938.
- Closure of the U.S. Canadian border to non-essential travel, which is set to expire Thursday, will likely be renewed for another month to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, [media in Canada](#) report.

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released recommendations for State and Local officials considering the reopening of nursing homes.
- Cleveland.com: The President will reportedly nominate Justin Herdman, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio in Cleveland, as the next prosecutor for the District of Columbia.
- Crain's Cleveland: The U.S. economy will recover from the coronavirus pandemic, but the process could stretch through until the end of next year and depend on the delivery of a vaccine, said Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell.

Federal Information for Businesses:

- Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses
- Workplaces during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Restaurants and Bars during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
- Worker Safety and Support
- Coping with Stress for Workers
- Managing Workplace Fatigue during COVID-19
- COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning
- Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19
- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
- Prepare your Small Business and Employees for the Effects of COVID-19
- General Business Frequently Asked Questions
- Interim Guidance on Respirator Supply in Non-Healthcare Sectors
- Information for Small Businesses
- SBA: COVID-19 Resources
- Treasury: Assistance for Small Businesses
- DOL: Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for Coronavirus
- DOL: COVID-19 and the American Workplace
- DOL: OSHA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19
- WHO: Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19
- CISA: Risk Management for COVID-19
- CISA: Telework Guidance and Resources
- CISA: Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce

Local Updates

- The administration of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson does not intend to tap a \$37 million rainy day fund to offset anticipated losses in revenue from economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Chief of Staff Sharon Dumas said Monday.
 - The administration also wants to avoid layoffs in response to projections that anticipate revenues of \$675.7 million will dip between 11.9 percent and 14.6 percent.
 - Dumas also remarked on Cleveland's ability to keep collecting income taxes from those individuals who have not been working in the city during the pandemic because they have been forced to work from home; the state legislature included language in a bill that allows for the municipalities to keep collecting those taxes

- Cleveland Hopkins Airport saw 96% drop in passengers last month ([WEWS Channel 5](#))
- The Metroparks Zoo will reportedly reopen Wednesday, creating a drive-thru experience to allow visitors to see the animal exhibits without leaving their vehicles.