

May 22, 2020 – 8:00 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Small Business Administration released new information regarding the Paycheck Protection Program:

- **SBA Procedural Notice – Protection Program Lender Processing Fee Payment and 1502 Reporting Process**
 - The purpose of this Notice is to inform Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Lenders of the reporting process through which PPP Lenders will report on PPP loans and collect the processing fee on fully disbursed loans which they are eligible to receive.
- **Interim Final Rule on Second Extension of Limited Safe Harbor with Respect to Certification Concerning Need for PPP Loan and Lender Reporting**

State Updates

- The Ohio Department of Health reported Thursday that cases of coronavirus increased by 731 and deaths increased by 55 from Wednesday, reaching respective totals of 30,167 and 1,836.
 - Cases have resulted in 5,295 hospitalizations and 1,397 intensive care unit admissions.
 - Nursing home deaths account for at least 70 percent of the total coronavirus deaths in Ohio.
- For the week ending May 16, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 46,062 initial jobless claims to the U.S. Department of Labor.
 - The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last nine weeks (1,215,756) is more than the combined total of those filed during the last three years.
 - Over the last nine weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than \$2.8 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 619,000 claimants.
 - Of the more than 1 million applications the agency has received, more than 92% have been processed, with less than 8% pending.
- Lt. Governor Husted announced several new sector opening dates in Ohio:
 - On May 26, miniature golf, batting cages, and bowling alleys may resume operations if they can meet required safety protocols.
 - On May 26, skills training for all sports, including contact sports, may resume if required safety protocols can be met. Tournaments, games, and competitions for contact sports are still prohibited.
 - On June 1, catering and banquet centers may reopen if they can meet required safety protocols. Protocols include six feet between tables, no congregating, and a crowd size of no more than 300 people.
 - Guidance for these Orders are here: [baseball](#), [golf](#), [general non-contact sports](#), and [skills training](#).

- Full guidelines to ensure that these sectors operate in the safest manner possible are/will be available at coronavirus.ohio.gov.
- Governor DeWine announced initial findings from his Minority Health Strike Force.
 - The Minority Health Strike Force’s preliminary report will be available soon at coronavirus.ohio.gov and final recommendations will be issued on June 11.
 - Examples of these recommendations include: establishing culturally appropriate and accessible COVID-19 exposure notification services for communities of color; expanding testing capacity and access for minorities and high-risk populations; using data to prioritize resources in the communities that have the highest need; developing and launching a statewide, culturally-sensitive outreach campaign that educates African Americans and communities of color on COVID-19, health disparities, and social determinants of health.
 - A new position will be created within the Ohio Department of Health dedicated to social determinants of health and opportunity. This person’s work will build on several existing efforts to respond to health inequity by working directly with local communities on their specific long-term health needs and Ohio’s response to COVID-19.
- The Ohio Expositions Commission cancelled the 2020 Ohio State Fair due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- According to Hannah News Service, a collection of budget planning documents Governor DeWine requested from state agencies, boards and commissions as he contemplated how to handle declining state revenues are now available.
 - The details submitted by agency heads in response to DeWine’s order to identify FY20 cuts of 20 percent are not necessarily reflective of the actual course the administration took; they do show, however, where state agencies placed their priorities, information that will continue to be relevant as additional cuts loom in FY21.
 - The Governor and Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Kim Murnieks detailed in early May their plans for \$776 million in FY20 reductions.
 - OBM recently told agencies to identify 20 percent of spending in certain GRF line items for FY21 that could be placed into a holding account and would be inaccessible.
 - The department plans to release updated FY21 revenue projections in June.
- The Ohio Department of Agriculture appears to have issued 195 cultivator licenses under the Ohio Hemp Program.
 - Hemp was legalized in Ohio following Governor DeWine’s signing of SB 57 last year, a bill GCP supported.
 - The first license application period ended on May 1.

Federal Updates

- As U.S. states and countries around the world look to boost their economies by loosening restrictions, coronavirus infections continue to spread, with more than a million new infections world-wide in less than two weeks.
 - Globally there are more than 5.1 million recorded cases of the coronavirus, up from 3.85 million two weeks ago, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, and more than 333,000 deaths.

- In the U.S., there have been nearly 1.58 million confirmed infections. The death toll reached 94,702, including 1,222 deaths recorded between 8 p.m. Wednesday and the same time Thursday, a Wall Street Journal analysis of Johns Hopkins data showed.
- Reports out of Washington indicate there may be bi-partisan support to extend the eight-week statutory duration of the Paycheck Protection Program to 10 or 12 weeks.
 - Separately, the U.S. Treasury Secretary said there's "strong likelihood" that additional federal intervention will be needed to help businesses and workers as states start to reopen and the economy struggles to stabilize.
 - The administration and many Republicans in Congress want to first gauge the effect of trillions of dollars already appropriated.

Updates on Administration COVID-19 Efforts (May 21, 2020)

USDA to Provide \$1 Billion in Loan Guarantees for Rural Businesses and Ag Producers (HERE)

- The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture announced the Department is making available up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic.

USDA and USTR Announce Progress on Implementation of U.S.-China Phase One Agreement (HERE)

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced progress in the implementation of the agriculture-related provisions of the U.S.-China Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement (The Agreement), which entered into force on February 14, 2020.

U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$53 Million for Small Business Research and Development Grants (HERE)

- The U.S. Secretary of Energy announced the Department of Energy will award 256 grants totaling \$53 million to 211 small businesses in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

IRS Nationwide Tax Forums Go Virtual in 2020 (HERE)

- The Internal Revenue Service announced the 2020 IRS Nationwide Tax Forums will be held virtually in 2020 with a series of live-streamed webinars beginning this July.

IRS.gov Helps Taxpayers Get Tax Information They Need; Find Tools for Filing, Paying, Checking Accounts and Answering Questions (HERE)

- The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers about several online tools available to help them get the tax information they need as the IRS has limited operations due to the coronavirus.

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Rule to Better Deliver Retirement Plan Information Options (HERE)

- The U.S. Department of Labor announced publication of a final rule that expands the ability of private sector employers to communicate retirement plan information online or by email.

Local Updates

- A Lake Erie wind farm targeted within sight of Cleveland won approval Thursday before the Ohio Power Siting Board.

- According to cleveland.com, County Executive Armond Budish's administration expects to begin soliciting proposals for establishing a diversion center where police could take some mentally ill or addicted suspects rather than jail them.
 - Diversion centers are meant to provide better treatment and support services for crime suspects suffering from mental illness or substance abuse.
 - For every 25 jail beds that are eliminated, the County could save \$6 million in jail construction costs, and \$1.1 million in annual operating costs, consultants have previously said.