

- There are now 119 confirmed cases in the State of Ohio
- Governor DeWine is activating 300 National Guard members to assist in transporting, packaging, and distributing food
 - They are coordinating with Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks
 - Members of the Ohio Military Reserve placed on active duty to help coordinate with foodbanks
- Recommendations from Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
 - Courts **must be open** to address emergency and time-sensitive matters
 - Courts can be closed to public for non-essential matters
 - Urging courts to use methods that reduce jail populations, such as lowering bond and issuing summons rather than arrests
 - Urging judges to issue continuances for non-essential matters
 - Local courts should continue to exercise their own authority
 - Urging changing as many meetings as possible to remote
 - Asking sheriffs to release as many people from jail as possible, especially those that are at a high risk for health issues
 - Assessment needs to be done if elderly prisoners can be safely released
 - This is not about prisons
 - Supreme Court is releasing \$4 million in grants to local courts for video conferencing capabilities
 - Process for grants being released tomorrow
- DeWine provided assurance that our food supply chains are fine
- Closing all illegal internet cafes
- DeWine emphasized that there is not a shelter in place order
- Executive Order to expand access to medical and behavioral health services via telehealth
 - Includes videos, calls, etc.
 - Medicaid will cover telehealth services
 - Individuals do not have to be an established patient to receive telehealth services
 - Includes all sorts of health care providers including doctors, physical therapists, Licensed Social Workers, dieticians, nurses, etc.
 - Online digital evaluation and remote monitoring of symptoms like temperature and heart rate
 - Behavioral health is a very important component of this
 - Treatment, counseling, crisis services, peer recovery, and more can be covered under this
 - We understand there is difficulty with access in rural areas, and this should help
 - Many private insurance companies are now covering telehealth services
- Ohio Department of Aging has formed task force to address handling of COVID-19 in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and elders that receive care in their homes
 - Looking to provide home delivered meals for the elderly
 - Contact your local Area Agency on Aging for assistance
- Ohio's request for small businesses to receive economic disaster relief loans has been approved
 - Apply through disasterloan.sba.gov/ela or 1-800-659-2955

Additional Information

- Please see the attached COVID-19 Resources Document for information regarding unemployment, small business resources, executive orders, and more.
- Yesterday, President Trump signed an emergency relief package passed by Congress to help those impacted by COVID-19. Please see the attached document for more information.
- Please see attached COVID-19 Banking Memorandum for information on policies that banks are offering.
- Please see HB 557 and SB 293, both in regards to revising public meetings laws. Public meetings will be addressed in the upcoming legislative sessions, but these bills may not necessarily be what passes.

Ohio General Assembly Update

The Ohio House and Ohio Senate will reconvene next week to deal with a limited number of issues. Currently, we expect that they will work to resolve issues such as the state of the Ohio primary, school vouchers, re-appropriations, tax conformity, and revising open meetings laws. We are tracking these issues, and we will keep you informed of any information we hear.

- Senate Session: March 25 at 1:30 PM
- House Session: March 24, 25, 26, 31 and April 1 and 2 all at 1:00 PM
- Legislation is not expected to go through the usual committee process, but rather it will be handled procedurally through the Rules committee

Ohio Primary Update

The status of the Ohio primary is still up-in-the air, but if you have not already voted you can still request an absentee ballot. Please follow this link to request an absentee-mail ballot <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/#byMail>.

Please see the attached Ohio Primary Update Document for more information.

Unemployment Surge

The shuttering of businesses in Ohio has led to a 2,500 percent increase in unemployment claims in Ohio this week. Since Sunday 111,000 Ohioans have filed for unemployment benefits according to data from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Comparatively, 4,000 people filed for unemployment last week. Please see the attached COVID-19 Resources document for more information on filing unemployment claims.

Utility Disconnection Suspension

Following an order by [the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio \(PUCO\)](#), all regulated Ohio water, gas, electric, sewer, and landline telephone companies are suspending service disconnections for customers with past due bills during the coronavirus threat. PUCO's order prohibits and policies that could impose a service restoration hardship or create an unnecessary risk of human contact.

Please note that PUCO does not regulate utilities that are municipally owned or customer-owned cooperatives, but many utilities that follow under those categories are still following suit. If you experience any issues please contact PUCO at 800-686-7826. As always, we are happy to assist with any questions or concerns you might have.