

Below are the updates from yesterday's press conference with Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted. The next press conference is currently scheduled for Tuesday, August 25th at 2:00 PM.

- Ohio's COVID-19 case data is below:

- o 104,999 confirmed cases
- o 5,882 probable cases
- o 110,881 total cases
- o 12,529 hospitalizations
- o 3,627 confirmed deaths
- o 280 probable deaths
- o 3,907 total deaths
- o 2,827 ICU admissions
- o More data is available on the COVID-19 Dashboard [HERE](#).

- Governor DeWine released this week's new Ohio Public Health Advisory System map.

- o Upgraded to Level 3 (Red): Clark, Lorain, Preble, and Trumbull
- o Remaining at Level 3 (Red): Clermont, Erie, Franklin, Lucas, and Mercer
- o Downgraded to Level 2 (Orange): Brown, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Licking, Marion, Montgomery, and Muskingum
- o Downgraded to Level 1 (Yellow): Highland, Huron, Jefferson, Morgan, Richland, and Ross
- o There are no counties on Ohio's Watch List

- Governor DeWine announced today that adult day care centers and senior centers may open at a reduced capacity beginning on September 21 if the facilities can meet certain safety standards outlined in a forthcoming health order. The Ohio Association of Senior Centers and those representing adult day centers nationally and locally assisted in developing the ResponsibleRestart Ohio plan for adult day care and senior centers. The full plan and health order will be posted soon at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

- Governor DeWine announced that a statewide testing initiative for Ohio's more than 765 assisted living facilities is now underway to offer baseline saliva testing to all staff and residents at no cost to the facilities. The tests can be self-performed or performed with assistance, under the observance of licensed medical staff. Baseline saliva tests are minimally invasive and provide reliable results in approximately 48 hours upon the lab's receipt. An order requiring all assisting living facilities to participate in the testing initiative will be posted soon at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

- Governor DeWine today asked the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors to send up to \$1.5 billion in dividend payments to Ohio employers this fall. This dividend equals approximately 100% of the premiums paid in policy year 2019. Dividends like this, as well as previous ones, are possible because of strong investment returns on employer premiums, a declining number of claims each year, prudent fiscal management, and employers who work hard to improve workplace safety and reduce injury claims. Please see the attached statements from NFIB and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

- If approved by the Board, this would be the second dividend of \$1 billion or more since April and the third dividend since 2019. BWC anticipated providing a dividend next year, but with Board approval, they will issue one now to provide some immediate economic relief to employers amid the ongoing pandemic. Checks would be distributed by BWC in late October.

- Additionally, Governor DeWine asked BWC's Board of Directors to approve of a second distribution of face coverings to Ohio employers and their workforce as part of BWC's Protecting Ohio's Workforce- We've Got You Covered program. This second round will consist of approximately 23 million masks to employers and are meant to replace any masks that have exhausted their effective use. Governor DeWine has also asked that BWC work to purchase as many masks as possible made in Ohio. In the first distribution of face coverings, BWC shipped 20.6 masks to 197,000 employers and their workforce.

- Governor DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) will be working with Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose to ensure that Ohio's 88 boards of elections have the personal protective equipment

(PPE) needed to execute early in-person voting and voting on election day. DAS will provide an estimated 800,000 masks, 64,000 face shields, and 26,000 gowns, and the Secretary of State's office is expected to distribute the PPE in early September.

- Following a deadly week of gun violence that resulted in at least 56 people shot, including 17 people who were killed, Governor DeWine again called on the Ohio General Assembly to consider legislation currently pending to address gun violence.

- Ohioans filed 21,663 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported to the U.S. Dept. of Labor today. This was 252,552 fewer than the peak earlier this year. Ohioans filed 359,585 continued jobless claims last week, which was 416,717 fewer than the peak earlier this year.

- Over the last 22 weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than \$6 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 784,000 Ohioans. Of the more than 1 million applications the agency has received, about 94% have been processed, with about 6% pending. In addition, ODJFS has issued more than \$5.2 billion in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) payments to more than 529,000 PUA claimants.

- Ohioans can apply for unemployment benefits online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at unemployment.ohio.gov. It is also possible to file by phone at 877-644-6562 or TTY at 888- 642-8203, Monday through Friday 7AM to 7PM, Saturday 9AM to 5PM, and Sunday 9AM to 1PM. Employers with questions should email UCTech@jfs.ohio.gov.

As always, Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov and the Department of Health hotline, 1-833-4-ASK-ODH are great resources for those who have questions.



Ohio Chamber

@OhioChamber



Today's announcement from [@GovMikeDeWine](#) means \$1.5 billion will go back into Ohio's economy which will help spur further economic recovery in communities across our state!

 **Governor Mike DeWine**  [@GovMikeDeWine](#) · 2h

I'm asking [@OhioBWC](#)'s Board of Directors to send up to \$1.5 billion in dividend payments to Ohio employers this fall. If approved, this will be our second dividend of \$1 billion or more since April, and our third since 2019.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Ohio BWC Infusion For 2020 Will Help Keep Small Businesses Going

COLUMBUS, August 20, 2020 – NFIB, the state's leading small business association, issued the following statement on the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, pending board approval, returning 1.5 billion dollars back to Ohio private employers. This statement can be attributed to Roger Geiger, Executive Director for NFIB in Ohio.

"The announcement today that the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has been asked by Governor Mike DeWine to return an additional \$1.5 billion back to Ohio private employers will provide a helpful cash infusion to small business owners. As the state fund being comprised almost entirely of small businesses, these dollars will be important as the pandemic continues and they see sales suffering," said Roger Geiger, Executive Director for NFIB in Ohio.

"As family-owned businesses continue to navigate their way through the coronavirus crisis, the state of Ohio can play a vital role in helping them hold on to their employees and keep the doors open. We appreciate Governor DeWine and Administrator McCloud for putting critical dollars back in the hands of small business owners during these uncertain times," Geiger concluded.

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For more than 75 years, the National Federation of Independent Business has been the one, true Voice of Small Business, taking the message from Main Street to the halls of Congress and all 50 state legislatures. NFIB annually surveys its members on state and federal issues vital to their survival as the engine of the American economy and its biggest creator of jobs. NFIB's educational mission is to remind policymakers that small businesses are not smaller versions of bigger businesses; they have very different challenges and priorities. NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. More information about NFIB is available at www.NFIB.com/newsroom.

Ohio Public Health Advisory System

LEVEL 1

Public Emergency

Active exposure and spread.

LEVEL 2

Public Emergency

Increased exposure and spread.

LEVEL 3

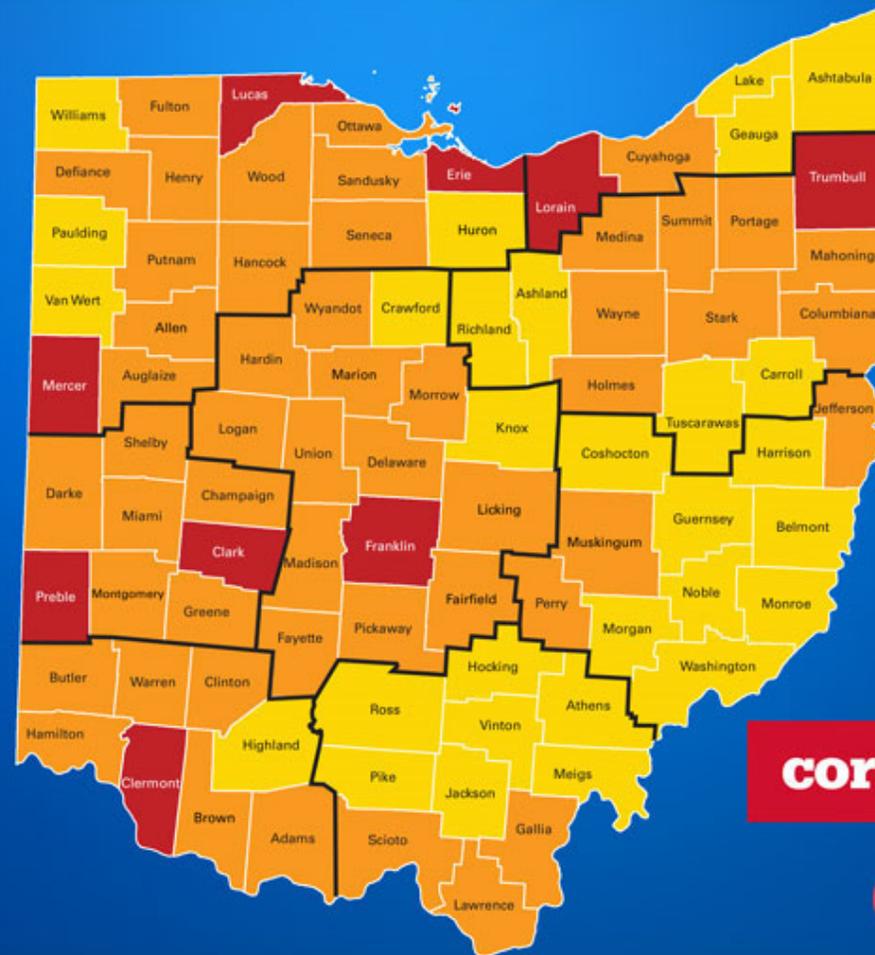
Public Emergency

Very high exposure and spread.

LEVEL 4

Public Emergency

Severe exposure and spread.



As of
8/20/2020

coronavirus.ohio.gov



Department
of Health