

# **BREAKING NEWS**

**Today is Friday March 20, 2020**

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## **State of Ohio to Allow Deferred Health Insurance Premiums**

The state of Ohio will allow businesses to temporarily defer their health insurance premiums to keep their workers covered during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced during a March 20 news conference that Ohio is ordering health insurance companies operating in the state to extend a grace period to businesses who want to defer their premiums for up to 60 calendar days from the original due date.

Health insurers must also allow employers to continue covering their workers even if the employee would otherwise become ineligible because of a decrease in the hours that they work per week.

"We hope that this will give them some relief during this time," Husted said.

That order is the latest in a number of dramatic steps the state of Ohio has taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state. That includes closing consumer-facing businesses like:

- Bars and restaurants
- Salons, spas and barbers
- Gyms, theaters, recreation centers, bowling alleys and water parks

To mitigate the impact of those closures on the workers employed by affected businesses, Ohio has loosened its rules in regards to who can claim unemployment benefits. Unemployed workers no longer have to actively seek employment to be eligible for benefits.

The state has eliminated a one-week waiting period before benefits can be claimed and also made eligible workers who are quarantined through an order by a healthcare professional or their employer.