



## Agency Changes Due to COVID-19

As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

- **Enhanced unemployment aid for Ohioans:** The Governor will issue an executive order, which will grant the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services with the authority to accept and grant requests for unemployment compensation **suspending the normal 1-week waiting period**. This order will also **give relief to applicants who are not offered paid leave through their job**, as well as those who have been quarantined by a medical professional, their employer, or **whose employers must temporarily close**. Those who apply for unemployment under these circumstances **will be exempt from the requirement that they be actively seeking work**.
- [www.unemployment.ohio.gov](http://www.unemployment.ohio.gov)
- **Call center hours have been expanded;** Monday-Friday 7am-7pm, and Saturday 9am-1pm; capacity on the phone lines has been increased and callers are encouraged to stay on the line if you can
- Governor DeWine has directed ODJFS to **create the Pandemic Child Care Center Licensure**
  - If child care facilities are asked to close (NOT YET ASKED TO CLOSE), JFS will immediately begin communicating with providers in the field and Governor DeWine will put together a panel to help create a system to disseminate that order and support to providers

### Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

- All incarcerated individuals will receive: **2 free 5 minute calls per week, free eBooks** through GTL, and **1 free 15 minute video call per week** through JPAY
- **Visiting will be suspended** indefinitely
- **Volunteers entering our facilities will be suspended** indefinitely
- Only mission critical contractors (construction, medical, food service, etc.) will be permitted to enter the facilities; mission critical will be determined by the managing officer
- Staff, mission critical contractors, and attorney **health screenings will begin upon entry** into the facilities
- No outside inmate workers will be in the community; inmate workers will only be permitted on state grounds
- Only mission critical transfers will take place; reception, medical, and security are mission critical
- In-service training will be changed to mission critical only
- CTA trainings will only be mission critical and those necessary for staff to maintain their positions/certificates/licensures



#### Ohio Department of Education

- **K-12 schools will be closed for at least 3 weeks** (until April 6<sup>th</sup>)
- School districts' separately are deciding how to offer food to students while schools are closed

#### Ohio Department of Commerce

- Division of Liquor Control will allow a **bar or restaurant to return unopened high proof products purchased within the past 30 days** as a way to provide economic assistance to bar and restaurant owners during coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This courtesy also extends to those who may have **obtained a temporary permit (F2) for an event, scheduled between March 12, 2020 and April 6, 2020 and that event is now cancelled**. Additional consideration will be given closer to April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 if needed. All a bar/restaurant or F2 permit holder needs to do is bring unopened high proof liquor product back to the Contract Liquor Agency they purchased the product. The Agency will call the Liquor Enterprise Center (LESC) for approval. Approval is immediate, but awareness of the return is necessary. For questions or more information regarding the one-time high proof liquor buy-back, please feel free to contact the LESC at 877-812-0013 or [OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov)
- **Restaurants and bars are closed to dine-in customers**; may still be operate as carry-out and/or offer delivery services
- **Salons, barbershops, and spas will be closed** beginning close of business March 18th

#### Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Veterans Services

- **Regarding Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities in the State of Ohio:**
- Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who are absolutely necessary for the operation of the Homes. People who are "**absolutely necessary for the operations of the Homes**" include, but may not be limited to, home staff, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, contractors conducting critical on-site maintenance, and governmental representatives and regulators and their contractors. Included are also **no more than one (1) visitor per resident per day, except for end-of-life situations**
- **Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who have been screened for COVID-19 each time they enter the Homes**. Screening guidance is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as from the Ohio Department of Health. Screening should include questions about exposure to COVID-19 and assessing visitors and personnel for cough, shortness of breath, and body temperatures of 100.4 degrees and higher



- Restrict access to all Homes to as few points of entry as is possible, with the **Ohio Department of Health recommending one (1) point of entry**. This does not apply to emergency ingress or egress of facilities.
- Restrict access to all Homes only to those persons who produce legal federal- or state-issued identification and provide the Homes with business telephone numbers and addresses. It is the responsibility of the Homes to log such information, maintaining it for at least six (6) months.
- Allow residents to **discharge from Homes at any time** and in accordance with applicable state and federal law, understanding that residents that then return to the Homes while this Order is in effect are subject to the directives above.
- Comply with infection control precautions located in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-17-11(D) and 3701-16-12(C)

#### Ohio Development Services Agency

- Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan program will enable small business owners to **apply for low-interest loans to help overcome temporary loss of revenue** due to the COVID-19 outbreak; for more info contact [BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.Gov](mailto:BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.Gov)
- Can also find information at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)

#### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

- The Commission **directs all public utilities under its jurisdiction to review their service disconnection policies, practices, and tariff provisions** and to promptly seek any necessary approval **to suspend otherwise applicable requirements** that may impose a service continuity hardship on residential and non-residential customers or create unnecessary COVID-19 risks associated with social contact. **For more information about service disconnection or reconnection, customers should call 1-800-672-2231.**
- **Moratorium on electric and gas disconnections will be continued through May 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Ohio's electric, natural gas, water & wastewater distribution utilizes to **suspend any in-person meter reading activities, and any other non-essential work**; functions that are necessary to **initiate new service or to ensure the continuity of service should be deemed essential** and should continue during the state of emergency

#### Other services

- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai introduced a new **broadband and telecom industry** measure on Friday called the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which is for the next 60 days, **asks that companies not terminate service for residential or small business customers, waive any late fees incurred due to the economic effects of the virus, and open access to public Wi-Fi hotspots** to "any American who needs them." These are the companies that have taken the pledge in Ohio: AT&T, Cable One, CenturyLink, Charter, Cincinnati Bell, Continental, Comcast,



Consolidated Communications, Cox Communications, Frontier, Little Miami, Mediacom, Oakwood, Ohio Rural Broadband Association, Ohio Telecom Association, Sprint, TMobile, TracFone Wireless, US Cellular, Van Lue, Verizon, Windstream. **Contact your provider for more information.**

- The Federal Communications Commission granted Telecommunications Relay Service providers temporary waivers to better enable American Sign Language interpreters to work from home in order to maintain relay services

#### Ohio Department of Medicaid

- Medicaid **work requirement is NOT** in effect at this time. Those who receive Medicaid are not required to be working during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There will be an **expansion of telehealth services for both physical and mental health services during public emergencies** so that patients may contact their doctors from home rather than risk going into the office; patients do not need to be established with a doctor to see them via telehealth

#### City of Columbus

- **Suspending all in person bill payment and permitting services** for the Department of Public Utilities, Building and Zoning Services, Recreation and Parks, and Department of Public Service at the 111 Front Street Coleman Government Center and Jerry Hammond Building at 1111 East Broad Street until further notice.
- **Department of Public Utilities payment options:**
  - **Drop boxes** at 111 Front Street or in front of the Public Utilities Complex along Twin Rivers Drive (910 Dublin Road)
  - **Online** portal: <https://schedulepayment.com/Columbus>
  - **Payment by phone** or billing questions can be directed to the Customer Service Center 7am-3pm: 614-645-8276
  - Western Union locations in Kroger stores: <https://www.westernunion.com/us/en/pay-bills.html>
- **Department of Public Utilities permitting and Inspections:**
  - Email permit info to [UtilityPermits@columbus.gov](mailto:UtilityPermits@columbus.gov)
- **Building and Zoning Services:**
  - **Front Counter will be closed** at the end of business March 17<sup>th</sup> and will issue no new permits other than online
  - **Residential inspections will stop on all occupied buildings**
  - Map Room will be closed as end of business March 17<sup>th</sup>
  - The following **boards and commission have suspended their meetings** until further notice:
    - Board of Zoning Adjustment
    - Columbus Building Commission
    - Development Commission
    - General and Home Improvement Contractors Board



- Graphics Commission
- Sign Erectors Board
- Skilled Trades Review Board
- **Building and Zoning Services operations will continue until further notice:**
  - All online activities will remain available
  - Inspections for commercial, multi-family new build, and residential new builds with scheduling occurring online as [www.columbus.gov/bzs](http://www.columbus.gov/bzs) or by phone (614)-645-8235
- **Recreation and Parks:**
  - Golf 614-645-3375 [mrmusser@columbus.gov](mailto:mrmusser@columbus.gov)
  - Sports Office 614-645-3366 [crpdsports@columbus.gov](mailto:crpdsports@columbus.gov)
  - Rental Services 614-645-3340 [parkrentals@columbus.gov](mailto:parkrentals@columbus.gov)
  - Special Events 614-645-3800 [specialevents@columbus.gov](mailto:specialevents@columbus.gov)
- **Department of Public Service:**
  - The **in-person permit counter will be closed** at the end of business March 17<sup>th</sup> and an online, email or phone permitting process will be utilized
  - Parking tickets can be paid online [www.parkcolumbus.com](http://www.parkcolumbus.com) or call (844)-565-1295
  - Impound Lot customer hours will be 11am-6pm Monday-Saturday and are subject to change
  - Use the City of Columbus portal <https://portal.columbus.gov/permits> for permit applications
  - Contact the permit counter through email at [colsp permit@columbus.gov](mailto:colsp permit@columbus.gov) or 614-645-7497 with any issues or concerns
  - **The following will be impacted:**
    - Process and Issuances of Right-of-Way Permits (i.e. Occupancy permit, excavation permits, Oversize Permits, Food Truck Permits, etc)
    - City of Columbus specification books
    - No Parking Signs for permitted projects

#### Ohio Department of Public Safety

- **Bureau of Motor Vehicle locations will close** at end of business March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Governor DeWine will **ask the legislature to pass a grace period** for drivers licenses that will expire during the period that the BMV locations are closed, i.e. not ticketing drivers who are pulled over with expired licenses
- **Five Deputy Registrar and Driver Examination stations are open for CDL services only**, which include CDL renewal, TIPIC, HAZMAT endorsement, and knowledge testing:
  - **Central Ohio:**
    - Deputy Registrar – 4503 Kenny Road, Columbus 43220
    - Driver Exam Station – 4738 Cemetery Road Columbus 43026
  - **Northeast Ohio:**
    - Deputy Registrar – 22125 Rockside Road, Bedford 44146
    - Driver Exam Station – 22123 Rockside Road Bedford 44146



- **Southeast Ohio:**
  - Deputy Registrar – 142 Gross Street, Suite B, Marietta 45750
  - Driver Exam Station – 142 Gross Street, Suite A, Marietta 45750
- **Northwest Ohio:**
  - Deputy Registrar – 1616 E. Wooster Street, Suite 30, Bowling Green 43402
  - Driver Exam Station – 1616 E. Wooster Street, Suite 30, Bowling Green 43402
- **Southwest Ohio:**
  - Deputy Registrar – 10938 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati 45231
  - Driver Exam Station – 10940 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati 45231

#### Central Ohio Transportation Authority

- As of 9:15 on Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 COTA will **not be charging fares** for transit through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Customers are to **board vehicles from the rear** except for (except ADA/wheelchair service who will continue to use the ramp at the front door of fixed route)
- Customers are asked to continue practicing social distancing and **sit at least one seat away from other customers**
- Two weeks ago COTA also implemented daily and hourly sanitation of vehicles and **hand sanitizer will be available on every vehicle**

#### Department of Justice

- Per Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, **courts will remain open** to address emergency and time sensitive matters
- There will be **a reduction in need for jury pools** and public traffic as well as efforts to maximize the use of technology
- **Foreclosure actions are stayed for 60 days** to allow people to stay in their homes
- Those currently jailed who are in high-risk categories for COVID-19 will be released