

Below are my notes from Governor DeWine's daily press conference and some additional COVID-19 related information.

A few other matters of note:

- Ohio voters have cast 975,158 absentee ballots—however there are 1,667,883 residents had requested an absentee ballot—so 693,000 ballots remain outstanding. Today is the LAST day to postmark a request for your absentee ballot, and all ballots must be postmarked by April 27 or dropped off in-person before 7:30pm on April 28th for them to count for the primary election.
- The Ohio House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force met today and had presentations from Herb Washington of Fast Track Inc, Chad Whittington of CAPA, Joseph and Brianna Hibner of Hibner Jewelers and Tony Nighswander of APT Manufacturing Solutions.
- Yesterday the committee had Tony George (restauranteur), Rebecca Grajeda of GAC Fitness and Sports, Steve Krull with La-Z-Boy, Dante Sabatucci of Sabatucci Sports, Dennis Shisler with Shesler's Cheese House, Jenel Bentley with Buffalo Lodging Company, and Lee Alexakos with Kings Island and Cedar Point.
- Monday's committee guests were Tim Burga with the AFL-CIO, John Green of Cafe O Play, Jayme Palker of Pinot's Palette, Hayley Deeter of Heyley Gallery, Tom Hamilton of Beaver Creek Florist, and Bill Bader of Summit Motorsports Park
- The U.S. Senate passed by unanimous consent a \$484 billion "Phase 3.5" COVID-19 stimulus package that dealt with three main categories: Payment Protection Program and EIDL, hospital support, and testing.

Governor Mike DeWine

- Governor wished a Happy Birthday to his grandson Brady—mentioned that he lives in a split household with his dad being an Indians/Browns fan and his mom being a Reds/Bengals fan.
- Wore a University of Akron tie. Said that their good family friend Susan went to U of Akron
- Governor brought a small Buckeye tree that his wife Fran dug up from their property. He said that he has a number already picked, and the reporter who asked that questions wins the tree. Laura Bishoff, reporter for the Dayton Daily News (who is a University of Michigan grad) won the Buckeye plant :)
- Earth Day shout out and spent some time through videos recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
- Laurie Stevenson, Director of the Ohio EPA was shown on a video recognizing Earth Day
- Laurie showed ideas from her staff on how to celebrate Earth Day: planting, gardening, picking up trash, collecting rain/making storm drains and water barrels, and artwork
- ODNR Director Mary Mertz was shown on video talking about the resurgence of the Bald Eagle in Ohio and that in 1979 just four nesting pairs were found in our state and the Bald Eagle was on the state and federal endangered species list. But through habitat acquisition, removal of DDT, and other actions, the Bald Eagle was removed from the endangered species list. 2,500 nest reports were submitted by Ohioans and ODNR confirms those reports. We have a confirmed 707 nests in 85 out of 88 counties. Symbol of strength and resilience.

- Director of Youth Services has confirmed its first case of COVID-19. Individual has been isolated. No new youth will be admitted to this facility at this time and everyone is wearing face masks.
- Governor spoke to revisiting Dr. Acton's order postponing elective surgeries, and Dr. Acton will sign another Order to have doctors reassess their procedures with patients. Governor said that he was concerned about people putting important medical decisions off. He is asking hospitals and doctors to review any of the postponed procedures and surgeries. New or chronic conditions should consider moving forward. There is a balance and patients must make informed decisions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Recognized that people are hurting from loss of job, additional responsibilities of care giving and teaching our children
- Governor said that they will have good news soon on testing and tracing (interview the individual and try to figure out who they were around and who else could have virus)
- In response to a reporter the Governor said that he made it clear to Directors they would "need to start wacking" at their budgets by 20%
- Closed the press conference with a video from ODOT Director Marchbanks, ODNR Director Mary Mertz, and EPA Director Laurie Stevenson talking about keeping our parks and open spaces free from litter and cleaning up after ourselves to "leave no trace." "Keep Ohio Beautiful and Trash Free"

Director Lori Criss, Director of Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

- Director Criss joined the press conference virtually
- OhioMHAS has a new toll-free number to provide emotional support from 8am-8pm seven days a week and calls roll over to a national hotline at night with trained responders for suicide prevention. All calls are confidential. Mental health is as important as physical health
- The calls will provide emotional management and support and can connect the individual with more local resources
- The number is: 1-800-720-9616

Lt. Governor Husted

- Beginning of March, Ohio had 5.6 million people working, record low unemployment, and our concern was that employers needed more workers. Since March 15, we have lost 1 million jobs and this will go higher
- Projected unemployment nationally could go to 20%
- Great Recession highest 10.9%.
- Rates of domestic violence, homelessness, suicide, and depression will increase
- Economic depression weighs more heavily on low income individuals
- Many small businesses will have to close and many are on their last dollars
- If businesses are not open, then our governments cannot run
- Mayors are telling state that they are looking at cuts of up to 15-25%—police, fire, and other vital services will be cut
- The states relies on income and sales tax—and we are hurting
- \$2.7 billion is in the Rainy Day Fund —we would need double that to balance the budget in the next 15 months. We fund k-12 and higher education, healthcare, etc.

- Economic consequences are not just about businesses, but the services people that rely on are being cut
- Lt Governor talked about an agricultural business that has 2,300 employees. One person had COVID-19 and they are already back to work.
- A reporter asked about the Toledo Jeep plant that is starting back up but workers said that they feel nervous— Lt. Gov said that working conditions would be strict for all employers.
- Lt. Gov said that the special working conditions are so strict that he would feel comfortable working in them, would feel comfortable for his family to work in them, and would recommend that all Ohioans could work under these conditions.

Dr. Amy Acton

Ohio Specific Numbers

- 14,117 confirmed cases (last 24 hours has taken a dip) (>1-106 years in age, median age is 51) (60% male and 40%)
- 2,882 hospitalizations (20%)
- 880 admissions to ICU (6%)—there has been an increase in our ICU admissions
- 87 out of 88 counties
- 610 death (from 54 counties)
- 97,998 tests in Ohio

Other Information from Dr. Acton

- Dr. Acton said that she did a call last night with former Governor Taft, Governor Celeste, and Governor DeWine preparing for the testing task force
- Developed a strategy on how to manage testing for individuals and staff with symptoms who are:

Priority 1: symptoms hospitalized and healthcare workers

Priority 2: longterm care setting and other congregate settings like prisons, first responders, 65 and older, and living with underlying conditions

Priority 2a: Long-term care/congregate living facilities with an outbreak

Priority 3:

- Showed the video again from a Dayton media firm that has now gotten national attention: <https://www.y>