WEEK IN REVIEW
Friday, April 2, 2021

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

For the week ending April 2, 2021

Throughout the week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted provided updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other state initiatives.

For the fourth week, Governor DeWine toured COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the state, including stops in Morgan, Monroe, Vinton, Montgomery, Clark, Allen, and Hardin counties. To date, Governor DeWine has visited clinics in 22 counties.

On **Monday**, Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted announced the approval of assistance for seven projects set to create 992 new jobs and retain 1,047 jobs statewide. During its monthly meeting, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) reviewed economic development proposals brought to the board by JobsOhio and its regional partners. Collectively, the projects are expected to result in more than $64 million in new payroll and spur more than $778 million in investments across Ohio.

On **Wednesday**, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 74, Ohio's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 transportation budget, into law.

"This budget ensures that we can continue to maintain and invest in Ohio's roadways," said Governor DeWine. "Ohio's transportation system continues to be a critical part of our economy, moving materials and people safely across our state. This budget advances our commitment to invest in state and locally-maintained roadways."

House Bill 74, sponsored by Representative Scott Oelslager, was approved with bipartisan support in both the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate, investing $8.3 billion over the biennial.

Additionally, the biennial budget includes various provisions to enhance and expand services offered by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, requires the completion of classroom or online instruction for driver's training before beginning behind-the-wheel instruction, repurposes

closed weigh stations, and creates a school zone around a preschool.

Governor DeWine also signed the following bills into law on Wednesday:

- Senate Bill 18, sponsored by Senators Kristina Roegner and Tim Schaffer, incorporates federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) changes into Ohio's tax code, amends Section 36 of House Bill 481 of the 133rd General Assembly to modify the law governing taxation, and declares an emergency.
- House Bill 128, sponsored by Representatives Jim Hoops and Dick Stein, repeals nuclear provisions of House Bill 6 of the 133rd General Assembly and makes changes to electric utility service law.
- Senate Bill 5, sponsored by Senators Kristina Roegner and Bill Blessing III, enters Ohio into the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. The compact will make it easier for Ohio's physical therapists to practice in other compact states, and non-Ohio physical therapists to practice here.
- Senate Bill 7, sponsored by Kristina Roegner, enters Ohio into the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. The compact is not yet active, but nine other potential member states have pending legislation to join.

On **Thursday**, Governor DeWine announced that the state will begin working with local colleges and universities to offer vaccination clinics on campuses across the state. These higher-education vaccination clinics will start on various campuses next week and will offer the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"Although young people are less likely to get sick from the coronavirus, they are significant carriers of the virus," said Governor DeWine. "By offering one-dose clinics on campus, students who wish to be vaccinated will have a nearby, convenient location to get the vaccine with their peers."

The goal is to offer on-campus clinics to all of Ohio's college students before the school year ends in May.

WORKPLACE VACCINATIONS

Governor DeWine also announced that Ohio will begin working with employers and other organizations to offer workplace vaccination clinics throughout Ohio. Beginning the week of April 12, vaccine providers can allot up to 25 percent of their vaccine allocation to be used to vaccinate their own employees or to partner with local employers, labor unions, and other organizations to vaccinate their employees at their work locations.

INCREASE IN CASES, VARIANT SPREAD

For the past two Thursdays, Ohio's statewide average was just under 150 cases per 100,000 population. The two-week case rate has now risen to 167.1 cases per 100,000. New cases had been relatively flat through the month of March, but cases are beginning to increase once again, which demonstrates the necessity that Ohioans choose to be vaccinated. To date, nearly 30 percent of Ohioans have received at least one dose of vaccine.

According to Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, chief medical officer at the Ohio Department of Health, variant activity continues to rise, closely mirroring what is occurring in the rest of the nation. Michigan is currently experiencing an increase in cases that is more than 3.5 times what Ohio is seeing, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this increase appears to be driven substantially by variants. Most of Ohio's rising cases numbers and variant cases are happening in the area of the state bordering Michigan.

"Ohio remains in a race against a virus that is now more contagious and right back on our heels," said Dr. Vanderhoff. "We can win this race as long as we don't falter; as long as we press on with consistent masking and vaccination, especially in light of this week's important and encouraging research out of the CDC confirming that the vaccines are powerful protection against COVID-19 and its variants."

Governor DeWine announced on Thursday that as Ohio continues to receive increases in its vaccine allotment, the state will allot more doses to areas that are seeing case spikes or increases in vaccine demand.

OHIO PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM

New health data compiled by the Ohio Department of Health shows case increases in 56 counties over the past week, however, because there are not yet significant increases in healthcare utilization at the county level, most counties stayed at the same level this week.

Level changes include:

- Van Wert County moved from yellow to orange.
- Auglaize, Paulding and Scioto moved from red to orange.
- Carroll, Mercer, and Morgan counties moved from orange to yellow.
- Clinton County dropped from red to yellow.

IN-DEMAND JOBS WEEK (MAY 3 – 7)

Lt. Governor Husted, in his capacity as Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, also announced that In-Demand Jobs Week will officially take place May

3 through 7.

In-Demand Jobs Week is designed to promote Ohio's most in-demand and fastest growing industries through statewide hiring, education, and training events. This year, In-Demand Jobs Week will feature all of Ohio's top jobs, including **critical jobs,** which focus on the health and well-being of Ohioans such as child care workers, home health aides, and firefighters.

Throughout the week, businesses, education providers, community organizations, and more are encouraged to plan unique, virtual opportunities that will inspire students and job seekers to pursue a job in Ohio. From virtual tours and roundtables to virtual career-tech signing days and online job fairs, In-Demand Jobs Week is an opportunity to highlight what Ohio has to offer.

Organizations can visit **TopJobs.Ohio.gov** to add their event to the official In-Demand Jobs Week map. Individuals interested in attending an event can use this map to find events near them.

LAUNCH OF APRIL ROUND OF TECHCRED

The next round of TechCred launched on Thursday and will close on April 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Ohio businesses can visit **TechCred.Ohio.gov** to apply and help their employees earn a new tech-focused credential at no cost.

More than 1,100 Ohio businesses have used TechCred, creating the opportunity for 19,841 technology-focused credentials to be earned by Ohio employees.

In the photo above, Lt. Governor Husted tours Columbus Public Health's mass drive-thru vaccine clinic with Dr. Mysheika Roberts and Dr. Andrew Thomas from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Throughout the week, Governor DeWine announced three appointments to fill judicial vacancies:

- Stephanie M. Bishop to the Findlay Municipal Court.

    Bishop, of Findlay, will assume office on April 9, 2021, and will be replacing Judge Mark C. Miller, who was elected to a different bench. Bishop will need to run for

election in November 2021 for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.

- Susan K. Steinhauer to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division.

  Steinhauer, of Stow, will assume office on April 26, 2021, and will be replacing Judge Katarina Cook, who was elected to a different bench. Steinhauer will need to run for election in November 2022 for the unexpired term ending January 5, 2023.

- Bertha Garcia Helmick to the Hamilton County Municipal Court.

  Garcia Helmick, of Cincinnati, will assume office on April 9, 2021, and will be replacing Judge Alan C. Triggs, who was elected to a different bench. Garcia Helmick will need to run for election in November 2021 to complete the unexpired term ending January 2, 2024.

As of Friday, there have been 1,021,718 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio. Additionally, 18,646 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths have occurred in the state; 18,643 were Ohio residents. A total of 53,243 people have been hospitalized, including 7,446 admissions to intensive care units.

CASE DATA/VACCINE INFORMATION

In-depth COVID-19 data for Ohio: coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Ohio's central scheduling system: gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov

All vaccine providers: vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov

More vaccine information: coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Throughout the week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine was joined by Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and provided updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as state initiatives.

On Monday, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 4 into law. Senate Bill 4, sponsored by Senators Stephanie Kunze and Michael Rulli, makes capital appropriations for school facilities and public works assistance.

On **Wednesday**, in a statewide address from his office in the Statehouse, Governor DeWine said that the state is at a critical point in the COVID-19 pandemic and implored Ohioans to take appropriate action to reverse the rapidly increasing spread of the virus.

"Today, more Ohioans are getting sick than at any previous point in this pandemic. We are sliding down a very dangerous path, with our once flattened-curve starting to sharpen and spike," said Governor DeWine. "This is a worrisome, disturbing reversal of our progress -- a jarring reminder of just how quickly our fate can change."

Governor DeWine commended Ohioans for doing their part at the beginning of the pandemic. However, with positive cases increasing, he reminded Ohioans that the choices they make today will impact the spread of the virus in the coming weeks. During the speech, grounded in scientific evidence and data, Governor DeWine reminded Ohioans about the efficacy of facial coverings to protect themselves, loved ones, friends, neighbors and other citizens. He also renewed the call to socially distance and limit public gatherings.

"I am calling on all Ohioans to once again unite. We must work together, support each other, and help each other through this challenging time. I've seen you do this. I know you can do this. Ohioans can continue to help our most vulnerable, while also protecting ourselves and our families. Together, we can be the Ohio where our hospitals are not overwhelmed, where our schools can open, where sports can start, and where our economy can continue to grow, Governor DeWine added.

A video of the address is available on the Ohio Channel's YouTube page.

On **Thursday,** Governor DeWine announced that new public health data has led the Ohio Department of Health to designate 19 counties as being in a Red Alert Level 3 Public Emergency as defined by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System.

Upgraded to Level 3:	Continuing at Level 3:	Downgraded to Level 2:
• Athens*	• Butler	• Trumbull
• Allen	• Clermont	

- Delaware
- Licking
- Lucas
- Richland
- Scioto
- Union

- Cuyahoga
- Fairfield
- Franklin
- Hamilton
- Lorain
- Montgomery
- Pickaway
- Summit
- Wood

Athens County is also on Ohio's Watch List because it is closely nearing Purple Alert Level 4. Butler, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties were removed from the Watch List but the threat of exposure and spread remains high.

New counties upgraded to Red Alert Level 3 will be mandated to begin wearing masks in public beginning at **6 p.m. on July 17, 2020**. Mask mandates will remain in effect in all counties continuing in Red Alert Level 3. Residents in Trumbull County are no longer required to wear masks in public, however, they are strongly encouraged to do so.

"As of tomorrow night at 6:00, nearly 60 percent of Ohio's population will be under a mask order, and I strongly encourage citizens living in other counties to wear masks in public as well," said Governor DeWine.
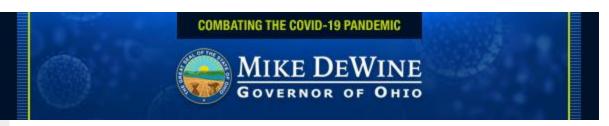
Detailed information on each Red Alert Level 3 county can be found on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System's website. The system was developed to provide local health departments, community leaders, and the public with data and information on the severity of the COVID-19 spread in the counties in which they live. The system consists of four levels with specific risk-level guidelines. Each level is calculated with data gathered on seven public health indicators.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Governor DeWine today signed an executive order to extend and improve emergency rules that will provide additional flexibilities to allow health care professionals to deliver services via telehealth.

Through the emergency rules, the executive order permits the use of audio, video, and even text messaging to allow people to access critical health care services while remaining socially distant and safe. This rule will apply to a variety of healthcare services, including critical mental health and addiction services.

PPE RETOOLING AND RESHORING GRANTS

Lt. Governor Husted announced that Ohio Development Services Agency awarded $20 million in grants to 68 Ohio manufacturers to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) and help ensure the safety of Ohioans during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring grants provide up to $500,000 to small and medium-sized manufacturers to expand production or convert their facility to start producing PPE including cleaning and sanitizing products, community dividers, components for ventilators, masks, face shields, gloves, gowns, hand sanitizer, nasal swabs, surgical masks, and thermometers.

The projects are expected to create 829 new jobs and retain 1,133 existing jobs. More than half of the awards will help small businesses with less than 25 employees. Grant funds can be used to retool or expand existing facilities in Ohio, construct new facilities, purchase equipment, or upgrade technology. Projects must be complete by December 31, 2020.

Ohio small businesses can learn more about other resources available through Office of Small Business Relief and Development at www.Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov/BusinessHelp.

PPE DISTRIBUTION

The Lt. Governor also announced that to date, Ohio has procured approximately 65 million pieces of PPE. This includes various types of face masks and shields, gloves, gowns, coveralls, and thermometers. Though not PPE, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) also ordered 1,000 ventilators. This includes purchases by the Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, DAS, and the Department of Health.

As of today, more than 50 million pieces of this PPE have been distributed across the state.

In addition to large and small companies, groups, and citizens who donated PPE, JobsOhio has been a consistent partner in this effort, allocating nearly $70 million for more than 40 million units of lifesaving PPE.

Next week, in an effort to help Ohio's small businesses and their workers operate in a safe environment, JobsOhio and its six network partners will distribute 15,000 PPE toolkits, for a total of 1.5 million 3-ply masks, 150,000 KN95 masks, and 15,000 bottles of hand sanitizer. This initiative brings together partners at the local level as well as partners in the chamber of commerce and urban leagues across the state. These kits have already been allocated to small businesses across the state.

On **Friday,** Governor DeWine vetoed Amended Substitute Senate Bill 55, and provided a statement regarding the veto.

CURRENT COVID-19 DATA:

As of Friday afternoon, there are 72,280 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 3,112 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 9,445 people have been hospitalized, including 2,305 admissions to intensive care units.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.