



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert May 1, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

COVID-19 Updates

Ohio Begins Its Reopening

Governor DeWine announced the first phase of his plan to reopen Ohio amid the COVID-19 outbreak - [the Responsible RestartOhio plan](#). The plan includes the following:

- May 1st: Medically necessary procedures that do not require an overnight stay in a healthcare facility or do not require inpatient hospital admission may move forward, including dental and veterinary services.
- May 4th: Manufacturing, distribution, and construction businesses and general office environments may reopen if these businesses can meet mandatory safety requirements (see below).
- May 12th: Retail establishments may open if they can meet mandatory safety requirements (see below).

All businesses must follow general [safe business practices](#) as they reopen, which include:

- requiring face coverings for all employees (unless an [exception](#) applies) and recommending them for clients and customers;
- conducting daily health assessments or self-evaluations of employees;
- maintaining good hygiene and social distancing;
- cleaning and sanitizing workplaces; and
- limiting capacity to meet social distancing guidelines.

All nonessential businesses not listed above are to remain closed. For a list of continued closures, click [here](#).

You may find the updated public health order [here](#). This new order is effective through May 29th.

General Assembly Schedule

The House has session scheduled on Tuesday (if needed), Wednesday, and Thursday next week. The Senate has an if needed session scheduled on Wednesday. The House has signaled it will resume work next week.

Auditor of State Memo

The Auditor of State has issued a memo for local governments on the economic and budget impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. You may view it [here](#).

ODOT Safety Sign Grant Program

Ohio townships that are eligible for this year's Safety Sign Grant Program are invited to participate in one or more of the following free discussion sessions:

- **Ohio Township Sign Grant Program - Virtual Townhall Question & Answer Series**

- May 8th, 14th, 18th & 28th, and June 3rd - [click here](#) to access the PDF flyer with registration links.

For a list of this year's eligible townships, click [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding the online registration process, please contact Ohio LTAP by phone or email:

614-387-7359 or 1-877-800-0031 (Toll Free in Ohio)

email: ltap@dot.ohio.gov

website: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ltap>

Workplace Safety Webinar

Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff - Attorneys at Law offered a free update on safety issues regarding Covid-19 as businesses begin to reopen. If you missed the live webinar, you can watch the recorded version [here](#). It addresses many issues pertinent to Ohio townships.

Federal Update



Congressional Action

The House and Senate were both in recess this week and not set to return to Washington until at least Monday, May 4th.

Last week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) stated on several occasions that they have already begun work on the fifth COVID-19 relief package. Direct flexible funding for states and all local governments to be utilized, in part, for lost revenue, remains a top priority for inclusion in the next package being drafted by House and Senate Democrats and will likely total several hundred billion dollars. While President Trump and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin have indicated that they are open to including additional aid for states and localities in the next package, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said last Tuesday that he supports letting states declare bankruptcy as they face mounting budget constraints sparked by the coronavirus and that there needed to be a "broad discussion" within the Senate Republican Conference regarding state and local funding. McConnell also called for lawmakers to "pause" while they evaluate the effectiveness of the nearly \$2.8 trillion already appropriated by Congress in the four COVID-19 bills enacted over the past two months and the impact the spending will have on the debt.

The next COVID-19 relief package Congress considers in the coming weeks will very likely include significant financial assistance for individuals, small businesses, hospitals, community health centers, health workers, first responders, and other industries which are struggling amid the pandemic. Other items on Democrats' wish list are an extension of unemployment insurance benefits, funding for housing programs, election security funding to states, a "heroes fund" for frontline workers and first responders, and a postal service rescue. Infrastructure, including boosting 5G cellular technology and broadband access, could also make it into the package, though lawmakers have never agreed with President Trump on how to pay for it. The Trump Administration is also reportedly interested in including a payroll tax cut for workers and manufacturing, tax, and trade policy changes to allow the U.S. to begin inching away from China.

NATaT has created a [Coronavirus Guidance webpage](#) to store NATaT letters, memos and briefs on the outbreak, as well as critical information and guidance released by Congress and the Administration.

2020 Census

All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities. We are adjusting some operations as outlined below with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of our staff and the public and fulfilling our statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.

Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).

[US Census Website](#)

[Ohio Census Website](#)

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