

Below are notes from the Governor's daily press conference from Remington Road Group

Additionally, President Trump extended the social distancing guidelines through April, Congress is working on a 4th stimulus package, the St. Louis Fed said that unemployment could rise to over 30%, and according to the Treasury, small business loans from the stimulus are expected to begin Friday.

While there was previously not suppose to be a press conference on Sunday, there was an impromptu Governor DeWine press conference yesterday to announce that his petition to the the President and FDA was successful. Columbus-based Battelle had told the FDA that they could sterilize up to 80,000 N95 masks per day, but originally the FDA said that they would limit them to 10,000. Governor DeWine called the President and issued a press release calling the FDA's action reckless. The President tweeted about the issue and called on the FDA to help. Then late last night, the FDA announced that they had changed their mind and said they wanted to be flexible during this pandemic and get Battelle's capacity up immediately. Battelle will have a unit in Ohio, NY, and Seattle to begin immediately.

March 30, Press Conference Highlights

- Governor said that there would be “a new order in the next several days: we have to slow this down and the only way to do it is if people separate”. It is believed this will be a way to deal with people congregating at public parks.
- Order to be signed to move the school closure date to May 1, 2020 (but Governor said this could be extended)
- Ohio is at 1,933 confirmed cases in 70 out of 88 counties, with 39 deaths
- The “peak” of the virus appears to be moving up to late April (previously thinking mid-May). We have seen estimates of 6k-8k per day to 10,000 per day at peak
- Major General John C. Harris, Jr., Ohio's Adjutant General joined the press conference today via phone. He said we will start to see the National Guard in our communities “they will be liaising with local leaders to make sure we're doing all we can to help”
- Ohio prisoners are going to start making surgical gowns, face masks, and sanitizer
- Governor and Lt. Governor announced that they are assembling a group of businessmen and women to seek advice on the economic front

Governor Mike DeWine

- Spoke to the Battelle news that they can sterilize surgical masks without a daily limit
- Governor mentioned that he spoke to Governor Cuomo about the Battelle development
- Governor announced that they would be forming a business group to get counsel on business matters. "Just like we did for medical decisions, we need counsel for business decisions."
- Ohio now has the coronavirus website translated in Spanish, Chinese, and Somali thanks to Chemical abstracts who is doing this for free
- Governor gave “shout outs” to the office of Hispanic and Latino Affairs and the Ohio Channel who carries this daily press conference
- Mentioned that he spoke to mayors today, and mentioned that he specifically spoke to the Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, There is a cluster in Detroit and there have been

questions about shutting down Michigan border to Ohio. Law enforcement in Rhode Island are stopping cars with NY plates and enforcing their quarantine.

- Spoke very forcefully to all the hospitals out there —“we need you to move the test results more quickly. The Ohio Dept. of Health will do that for you now. It can be as quickly at 8-10 hours. Right now people are waiting 6-7 days. We are not behind. The private labs are behind.”
- There is federal \$\$ to cover Adult Care Facilities, Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services is directing some federal opioid response funding to help people living in recovery housing or engaged in treatment to maintain their current housing
- Ohio is asking all local communities to include homeless shelters in their planning to meet the social distancing requirements—there are now federal CDC guidelines on homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters.
- Moving the date for schools to be open to May 1, and Dr. Action will be signing an executive order to do so.
- The governor got a question from press on schools, and the Governor said that education is actually continuing. We are doing it remotely and we are not sure if we will have classes this year. For the safety of our children and everyone in Ohio. Just one child represents an entire household and there are many families represented in one classroom.
- Ohio has federal money for education and we are going to try to be more helpful for distance learning and students without access to wifi and other barriers.
- Ohio prisons are working hard to have additional PPE—Department of Rehabilitation and Correction: making 500 hospital gowns and they will be an addition 44,000 when they have additional fabric .
- They will start making 5,000 masks a day and will make up to 2 million.
- Prisons will also be making face shields and hand sanitizer—waiting on ingredients, but will be able to make 1,460 gallons of hand sanitizer

Major General John C. Harris, Jr., Ohio Adjutant General

- You will see members of the military in your community, they are liaisons. Bringing the right leaders to the right places
- Every person is a part of this. The actions that we take now, will determine the outcome.

Lt. Governor Jon Husted

- Ohio is seeing issues in the commercial financial space. In the last financial crisis, we had a bunch of businesses go out and we don't want to see our communities with that.
- Ohio regulated financial institutions are one piece of it, but there are billions in lending from other regulated entities
- LG gave an example of the impact of inflexible lending and access to capital: "If you own an apartment complex—suddenly you have 8 units out of 30 of people who cannot pay, and then the apartment owner can't keep paying their mortgage"
- Reminder that Ohioans can now vote in the primary up to April 28 and to request your absentee ballot
- Said that the state increased capacity to handle the surge of unemployment benefits by 20%

Dr. Amy Acton

Ohio Specific Numbers

- 1,933 confirmed cases (>1-98 years, median age is 53) and almost exactly 50/50 male and female
- 475 hospitalizations
- 163 admitted to ICU
- Testing only the sickest, healthcare workers, and most at risk
- 25% of cases have been hospitalized
- 39 deaths (19 counties)
- 70 counties out of 88 have confirmed cases
- Tested 2,700 patients in Ohio
- Current capacity in Ohio (59% ICU beds, 48% isolation rooms, 54% surgery beds, and 30% of our ventilators)

Other Issues Dr. Acton Addressed

- She said that she has been working with Major General Harris on the emergency response
- Ohio has moved our capacity to 56% from 70% just by eliminating elective surgeries and other measures forced on our healthcare system
- Dr. Acton said that we are graduating students early to get started in the healthcare field more quickly. "Med students who were going to graduate in May or June, there is nothing that should keep them from getting in the field now."
- Ohio is building a curriculum around infectious diseases
- Ohio has a system to start collaborating about best practices around the world
- "We are designing a new workforce in healthcare. Everyone that went through this will never be the same"
- Dr. Acton said that she was scheduled to speak at NEOMED's graduation this year, her alma mater
- Ohio has gotten plans from the hospitals on their plans for COVID-19. For instance, one hospital will be a high intensity care center where we will send our most high-risk patients and some hospitals may not be able to handle.
- Ohio is "Building an air traffic control tower back at the EOC"
- Peak will be in a couple weeks—late April (this is a new development—pushing up the date when they thought the peak would be)
- Ohio is working with our hospital CEOs to double their capacity. Dr. Acton mentioned that she was working with General Harris on that
- No hospital system in the world could handle this, so our plan is "ongoing and ever evolving planning. Our planning will go through the surge and after the surge. We will never go back to how we did things before"
- Now we are talking about how we can maximize our systems and not operate independently
- Dorms, hotels, split up hospitals and facilities to care for different types of patients
- "Back at the EOC we are trying to help and remove barriers, we will help with licensing, and be there on the ground to help healthcare providers get what they need"
- Dr. Acton acknowledged that they are also talking to other states

- Today is “National Doctor’s Day” and Dr. Acton made a point to say that her medical coat was a symbol representing all healthcare professionals on the front lines. “I am wearing a symbol of all of our family and friends on the front lines. I have been there working on the front lines. We just lost an ER nurse. A young person with a family. This is becoming really personal. I think of you every day as I put it on.”

At the end of the press conference, Governor DeWine played a video recognizing the work of Dr. Acton and how so many Ohioans are really responding to her leadership, including a lot of young girls