

Below are notes from Governor DeWine's daily press conference, along with some additional information on COVID-19 efforts. Something that RRG didn't mention yesterday, but worth noting is that there was another protest during the press conference with about 100 people. There is now a Facebook page called "Ohio Stands United" created to push back on the Governor and Dr. Acton's actions on social distancing, stay-at-home order, and other actions.

Today's special guest was Columbus Mayor Andy Ginther, who highlighted the work of the newly constructed alternative care center at the Columbus Convention Center.

Other COVID-19 Ohio Developments:

- InnovateOhio has launched Ohio wifi hotspot locations, and you can find them on www.innovateohio.gov
- The Ohio Controlling Board yesterday approved more than \$200 million for COVID-19 response efforts, including money for summer meal program, N95 masks, ventilators, Adjutant General to build hospital space, and DRC for equipment in our prisons
- The House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force Committee has met virtually four times and they have guest speakers to share experiences of the economic conditions Ohio. Yesterday they had physicians that said that stopping non essential medical visits will have a negative impact on public health as well as cause economic harm to their practices. They had on restaurants and other small businesses today.

Highlights

- Ohio has 7,280 confirmed cases and 324 fatalities
- Dispute Resolution Commission met and they had 194 inquiries and after careful review investigated and ruled on 10: CBD stores, pet grooming, and car washes are not essential businesses. The minutes and rulings are on the website at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov under the tab "resources"
- Dr. Acton is going to sign an Order that will allow the sharing of positive COVID-19 names and addresses with emergency response dispatchers so that first responders can be properly protected when responding to an emergency
- Today, the Ohio Dept. of Medicaid submitted a 1135 waiver (or appendix K) to the federal government to give Ohio flexibility on their Medicaid plan (bolster telehealth, allow for providers to ensure safe distancing without compromising care, ease obstacles to access nursing home care, allow services to be provided at alternative locations, and remove staffing level requirements to give providers more flexibility

Governor Mike DeWine

- Wore a Wright State tie today
- Spoke to the Medicaid federal waiver (see highlights)
- A reporter asked questions about a situation of Bills Donuts in Centerville, Ohio—50 people applied for unemployment and only 4 people have had their unemployment processed. Governor said that they are concerned and upset how long it is taking to process unemployment claims. The LG responded by saying that he is also upset and quoted his college football coach who use to say "I don't want to hear about how rough the sea is, just bring back the ship"

- When asked if we would be playing baseball or will OSU play football in front of 110,000 people at the Shoe? "I don't know. I wish I knew the answer to your question, but I don't". Governor spoke about one of his son Brian who owns the Asheville Tourists.
- Reporters asked if there was a regional plan for opening back up and he said that there is no formal regional plan, but that he talks to the Governors of the states around us.
- "Until there is a vaccine—this monster is going to be working around us. When we start opening businesses and schools back up, it's going to be different. What everyone needs to be thinking about is what you will do to keep your employees and customers safe when you reopen" "We lost 50 of our citizens in the last 24 hours. This is a very dangerous situation"
- Closed press conference with a video from a little girl in the Ohio Special Olympics

Columbus Mayor Andy Ginther

- Mayor Ginther talked about the 1,000 bed alternative care center that was created at the Columbus Convention Center and how quickly it was built.
- Mayor thanked Lt. General Cannon for the "herculean effort." and talked about the "Columbus Way" "our greatest hope is that we never had to open this alternative care center" "collaboration and focusing on the common good"
- Mayor talked about Abbott and manufacturers pivoting from their current manufacturing to making PPE. Talked about Middle West and Watershed distilleries and how they moved from making spirits to hand sanitizer. "We are proud that central Ohio and buckeyes across the state stepped up and helped front line workers do their jobs"
- He commended the three healthcare systems for working together: Ohio Health, Mt. Carmel, and The Ohio State University. Again, spoke to the "Columbus Way" of collaboration of business, nonprofit, and government to get this done.
- The mayor spoke to the issue of getting it right when deciding to re-open businesses again and said that one of our local large restaurant entrepreneurs, Cameron Mitchell, said "we have the capacity to re-open once" so we really have to be careful to listen to the science on when we are really ready. We need to listen and follow our medical experts.

Lt. Governor Jon Husted

- LG talked about the Dispute Resolution Commission and how they had 194 inquiries and after careful review investigated and ruled on 10: CBD stores, pet grooming, and car washes are not essential businesses. The minutes and rulings are on the website at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov under the tab "resources"
- LG talked about the Office of Small Business Relief Office and that they have helped 1,300 businesses
- LG said that he keeps getting the question "when is this going to be over?" And he said that we wish we did know the answer to that. So at this point we need to talk about "how"—this will be a slower, incremental process. We can look at Italy and China. Businesses are putting together best practices and Ohio is putting together a list and we will have a plan for Ohio's post-coronavirus transition
- "You as a business will need to be thinking about reconfiguring your business, spacing between employees, hygiene and all the supplies of disinfectant, etc."

- Commended the food service, supply chain, manufacturing, and all the essential businesses are all using the safe practices used in the order.
- There are now 667 critical employers with 41,000 job openings at the www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/jobsearch. They have created safe work environments. These services are critical and they need help.

Dr. Amy Acton

Ohio Specific Numbers

- 7,280 confirmed cases in Ohio (>1-101 years in age, median age is 54) (3,800 females)
- 2,156 hospitalizations (30%)
- 654 admissions to the ICU (9%)
- 1,530 total healthcare workers
- 324 fatalities (50 deaths just in the last day)
- 86 out of 88 counties
- 67,874 tests in Ohio

Other Information from Dr. Acton

- Dr. Acton spoke to the issue that tolerance for ambiguity is really hard
- Dr. Acton went through a slide on high risk factors, which included: chronic long disease, obesity, diabetes, moderate to severe asthma, heart conditions, chronic kidney disease, immunocompromised individuals, and liver disease
- She spoke to the EMS Order issued today that will make addresses of those that tested positive to front line responders (see highlights)
- Dr. Acton mentioned a piece in the Columbus Dispatch by Columbus Foundation CEO Doug Kridler where he talked about “social urning in a time of social distancing”: <https://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20200411/how-columbus-is-handling-coronavirus-crisis>
- Dr. Acton spoke about coming home and finding her friends (all spaced appropriately) planting pansies in her yard and who much she missed her friends.
- Dr. Acton said that she found comfort in listening to Michael Stipe of R.E.M sing “No Time for Love Like Now” on Stephen Colbert: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCHfdpbyY84>