

Below are notes from Governor DeWine's daily press conference. Dr. Mark Hurst, the Ohio Department of Health medical director was the special guest today.

### **Some additional COVID-19 updates**

- The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, and the Ohio Farm Bureau sent a letter to Governor DeWine urging him to re-open businesses (see attached)
- The Ohio House Economic Recovery Task Force met virtually today and had presentations from Mike Volpe of Open Road Renewables, Kathleen Bryan of the University of Cincinnati, Debra Messner of Avenue X Fitness, Donte Rife of Ruhlin Company, Bryan Keller of Keller Logistics Group, Ryan Howard of Truenorth, Kelly Silva of House of Silva, Matthew Friedman of Northern Stamping and Andrea Morris Grodi of Tony Quaterdeck
- Ohio has 15,169 confirmed cases and 690 deaths

### **Highlights**

- Governor talked about the two essential components that help us reopen Ohio: testing capacity and contact tracing. Said that the work that former Governor's Celeste and Taft have done has led to a breakthrough in expanding capacity. Beginning Wednesday, Ohio will be at 7,200 tests per day, and the number will go to 15,000 by May 6th and 18,800 by May 13th, and 22,000 by May 27th. This announcement was made possible by a state agreement with Thermo Fisher (who has 1,500 employees working in Ohio) will manufacture the reagent, or "secret sauce" to the tests. Roe Dental Lab in Cleveland will manufacture up to 1 million swabs to support testing (which secured the specifications from Form Labs, a 3D printing company in Toledo),
- Governor announced that the state will cover the cost of housing for 200 youth who will turn 18 and "age out" of the system until the pandemic ends
- Prison update: Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Corrections dropped the inmate population by 336 inmates in the past week. For the past five weeks it has dropped by 844 inmates.
- Ohio has 15,169 confirmed cases and 690 deaths

### **Governor Mike DeWine**

- Governor wore a Wilberforce tie today
- Recognized Arbor Day and showed some of his grandkids planting a Buckeye tree
- Recognized Susan (a family friend), who works with WIC and said that he was today saluting the men and women that work in WIC "Women, Infants, and Children" as they continue to show up everyday to provide food and support for mother's and children. Website to sign up: [www.signupwic.com](http://www.signupwic.com)
- Also gave a shout out to those who work every day with Ohioans with developmental disabilities
- After the Governor announced the additional testing capacity (see Highlights) he said that his focus would be on congregate living settings, homeless shelters, treatment centers, developmental disability homes, and make sure that food and grocery workers and employees in essential manufacturing facilities are healthy and not spreading disease
- Governor spoke to the issue of "tracing" and Ohio working on a robust contact exposure tracing plan. Said that he is working with Dr. Paul Farmer, a long time friend of his and Fran's who worked in Haiti to dramatically cut the AIDS rate in Haiti and Africa.

- Reporter asked about how Sec. of State LaRose told people that if they could not get their ballot in the mail in time that they could vote in-person on Tuesday at their Board of Elections—and questioned the safety of this. Governor defended Sec of State LaRose and said that most people would vote in advance and that there should not be crowds. People had many opportunities to vote.

#### **Dr. Mark Hurst, M.D.**

##### **Medical Director, Ohio Department of Health**

- Said that if you develop symptoms to contact your healthcare provider, isolate and wear a mask, and separate from family
- Isolate until its been 7 days from symptoms and no fever or symptoms for 72 hours
- If you have a positive test, your healthcare provider will reach out to you and ask who you have been with in the last 48 hours. Any people who were with the infected person who'll be notified
- This is all voluntary, but the response has been outstanding. People want to protect their family and friends
- Testing and tracing to not replace the important things to fight COVID-19: washing hands for 20 seconds, cleaning and disinfecting, covering sneezes and coughs, not touching face, social distancing, makes

#### **Lt. Governor Jon Husted**

- Stressed that you have to have your ballot postmarked Monday night to get your absentee ballot postmarked.
- The LG said that he reached out to his staff during the press conference who confirmed that ONLY if you have requested a ballot and it did not arrive in time to vote by mail, could you then vote in-person at the BOE.
- Said that there are secured drop boxes at every Board of Elections and you can drop your ballot off up to 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 28th. Stressed that there are 482 other issues on the ballot statewide other than who is running for President. Talked about being a former Sec. of State, "there are so many elections that are decided by just one vote"
- Lt. Governor shared a video of his wife, Tina Husted, who has worked with the Ohio Arts Council on creating the Ohio Arts Beacon of Light, a program designed to help Ohio artists have a place to share their art during COVID-19.

#### **Ohio Specific Numbers**

- 15,169 confirmed cases (8,848 males and 6,266 females) (<1-106 age range, and median is 51)
- 3,053 hospitalizations
- 920 admissions to the ICU
- 690 confirmed deaths