

Below are notes from the Governor DeWine's press conference today on COVID-19.

Highlights

- Governor announced that the state has shipped 4.1 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to local emergency management agencies (EMA) across Ohio. This will be the largest one-time distribution of PPE from the state to local communities. The shipment includes: 500,000 N95 masks, 850,000 face shields, 750,000 surgical-type masks, and 2 million non-medical gloves
- Explanation of face coverings: face coverings are required by employers and employees while on the job with a few exemptions (the position prohibits wearing face coverings, against industry best practices, is not advisable for health purposes, is a violation of a company's safety policies, the employee is sitting alone in an enclosed workspace, or a practical reason a face covering cannot be worn). They are NOT mandated, but strongly recommended for customers (however, individual companies can mandate face coverings)
- Announced \$16 million in funding to local law enforcement agencies, courts, probation and parole offices, victim service providers, and adult, juvenile, and community corrections agencies) ODJFS is accepting applications at: www.ocjs.ohio.gov
- Ohio specific COVID-19 numbers: 17,303 confirmed cases, 3,421 hospitalizations, 1,014 admissions to ICU, and 937 deaths

Governor Mike DeWine

- Governor wore a Tiffin University tie and gave a shout out to Senator Sandra Williams who graduated from Tiffin U.
- Gave a shout out to Frank Migliozi, Trumbull county health commissioner
- Thanked all the teachers and educators who are finding new and innovative ways to engage their students and shared artwork from an 8th grader in Akron
- Spoke to the PPE purchase (see Highlights)
- Governor did a PSA for the Social Security Administration: If you get social security, you will automatically get the \$1,200 impact payment. If you are SSI and have not filed a tax return and have a dependent child, you can get \$500 per child, but you must act by May 5th. More information: www.irs.gov
- Governor spent a lot of time talking about graduation ceremonies and shared caution of graduation parties. The Order still does not allow 10 or less people to congregate. Said that Ohio's 612 school districts needs to work with their local health departments to make sure their plans are in accordance with the public health guidelines
- Reporters really focused on the reversal of the face coverings for customers and the Governor said, "It was a bridge too far" "the government telling them to put on a mask before going to the store is offensive" "my judgement was that this was not acceptable to people"

Lt. Governor Husted

- The LG spent his time also focusing on face coverings.
- "Wearing a mask is something we do out of mutual respect for one another"

- Talked through the face coverings restrictions (see Highlights above)

Dr. Amy Acton

Ohio Specific Numbers

- 17,303 confirmed cases (534 cases over 24 hours)
- 3,421 hospitalizations (which are trending up—they are looking at this)
- 1,014 admissions to ICU
- 937 deaths (significant increase that is in part due to a delay in reporting)
- 128,000 have been tested in Ohio

Other information from Dr. Acton

- Dr. Acton, like Governor DeWine, focused on why face coverings were so important
- Acknowledged that people under the age of two should not wear a mask, people with disabilities that cannot, and people with facial sensitivities
- "This is a team sport Ohio"
- "It's about allowing those who who are at risk, to be there for the next graduation and wedding"
- While acknowledging graduations will be tough said, "You will be the class that lived through this together"