

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

Highlights

- OSU and Battelle have jointly developed a new rapid COVID-19 test. Right now, system can process 200 tests per day, but the goal is to get up to 1,000 per day (OSU will administer the new test under its existing FDA certification permits)
- The decontamination of N95 masks is happening now—they processed their first 3,500 masks yesterday
- Ohio EPA Director Laurie Stevenson signed an Order to stop public water systems from shutting off someone's water—will be retroactive to January 1 (but individual will need to contact their water company for reconnection)
- Announced a JobsOhio \$2 million growth fund loan to Appalachian Growth Capital, which will provide small business financing in the 32-Appalachian counties of eastern and southern Ohio (will work through regional banks)

Governor Mike DeWine

- Spoke to his March 12 EO that directed state agencies to start doing telework—there are now 18,000 state employees working remotely and he is asking for state agencies to do more to create remote work environments
- He talked about how Dr. Acton was signing an Order to make healthcare providers report on how many ventilators they have and will have a weekly reporting system (this will allow for identification and redistribution of machines from providers who are no longer performing elective surgeries)
- Announced a JobsOhio is giving \$2 million growth fund loan to Appalachian Growth Capital, which will provide small business financing in the 32-Appalachian counties of eastern and southern Ohio (will work through regional banks)

Lori Criss, Director of Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services

- Ohio is working to make sure that those with addictions have a healthy place to live
- A mental health PSA for those who are now spending a lot of time with families and those who are alone
- Keep schedule, wake up, shower, school and work, eat at normal time, etc.
- Ended with the serenity prayer

Lt. Governor Jon Husted

- LG discussed the grace period for employers and employees: a grace period was enacted on March 20 for employers that can't pay their premiums. Also an order for out of network care—insurers must provide the same rates as in-network
- LG had a call with ODJFS and the vendors that support the unemployment system—there is a lot of frustration getting through on the system and they are working on this to increase capacity
- Vendors said that they are putting 180 new people in the call centers—they have to be trained according to the guidelines by the state and federal government
- Benefits will be back dated to the time that you were eligible

- LG did a call with nursing home operators today and spoke to their work being on the front lines
- For more help with businesses: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/businesshelp

Dr. Amy Acton

Ohio Specific Numbers

- 2,199 confirmed cases (> 1-99 years, with median age at 53)
- 585 hospitalized
- 55 deaths
- 71 counties out of 88 reporting cases
- 20% of total cases are healthcare providers
- 29,191 tested in Ohio

Other information provided by Dr. Acton

- Talked about Gary Pisano and his piece in the Harvard Business Review—two different regions in Italy “this virus is faster than any bureaucracy”. One city was able to make some dramatic decreases in cases and deaths by social distancing and he compares other cities in Italy that did not do this—very different results
- Ohio is working on a “community based response”
- John Wayne “we are burning daylight” to get ready for the storm
- We are working with modelers at OSU
- Talked about doubling our beds in hospitals —“we are in the calm before the storm”