Below are my notes from Governor DeWine’s daily press briefing. Special guests today were Debbie Penzone of Penzone Salon and Spas and Treva Weaver, COO of Wasserstrom and owner of Zoup! Eatery. Bars, restaurants, salons and barbershops will be permitted to open on May 15th (see details below).

There will be an announcement on childcare on Monday.

Additional Ohio COVID-19 Information

61,000 Ohioans filed for unemployment compensation last week, but is a major drop from last week. Total for the past seven weeks is 1,118,569. ODJFS has sent more than $1.9 billion in unemployment to more than 536,000 Ohioans.

Yesterday the Ohio House passed SB 1, which would require the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (legislative committee that approves administrative rules) approval after 14 days of a Dept. of Health Order. It was passed almost on a party-line vote with Rep. Greenspan and Rep. Gayle Manning opposing along with the Democratic caucus. It is uncertain what the Senate will do, but President Obhof did say that they should revisit current law. Per yesterday’s email—the Governor issued a strong statement of disapproval of this measure.

Yesterday, the Senate approved $350 million in federal CARES Act funding to local government. Ohio has $4.55 billion, with approximately $2 billion earmarked for local governments—including $775 million for six jurisdictions of Columbus, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Summit County—with an additional $1.2 billion for other local governments and the state.

However, yesterday’s vote appropriates just $350 million. Senator Dolan said that they are holding on spending the rest until there is more flexibility on spending. Right now they have to use it for direct COVID-19 expenses like PPE—but they are hoping it will be able to be used for as revenue replacement.

Highlights

Bars and Restaurants Open May 15 (outside dining) and May 21 (inside dining)
- May 15th for outside dining and May 21 for inside dining
- Presentation provided through video conference by Treva Weaver with Wasserstrom and owner of Zoup! Eatery
- Treva talked through the working group that weighed in on this. Regionally diverse and large and small restaurants.
- Restaurants will have to have a floor plan. Each party has to be >10 and then six feet. Customers may be asked to wear a mask, and that will be up to the owners. While employees will need to wear a mask, there will be exemptions, like if they are cooking over a hot stove.
- “Open congregate settings will not happen”. However those areas can now be used for seating because of the new requirements

Salons, Barbershops, Day Spas, and Nail Salons Open May 15
- May 15th hair salons and barber shops will open.
Presentation provided by Debbie Penzone, licensed cosmetologist for 30 years and owns a large chain of salons.

Debbie said that the group that made the recommendations on the plan were salons and spas of all sizes, both rental business owners, and regionally diverse.

Only person who is allowed in is the person who is the customer, the parent of a customer, or a personal helper

People may be asked to wait in the car until their appointment

All employees will be wearing masks and asking customers to also wear a face covering. And some businesses may make it mandatory.

Sanitation will go above and beyond current industry standards

Governor Mike DeWine

- Governor wore a tie from Ashland University
- Governor recognized National Day of Prayer—President Ronald Regan authorized the first Thursday in May as National Day of Prayer. Governor DeWine said a prayer for all the first responders, those who are ill, and those who are grieving. “We pray for hope, healing, and strength”
- Shout out to a staffer who is getting married in Mt. Vernon “practicing social distancing so they tell me”
- Governor talked through all the other previous business openings of healthcare, general office and construction, and retail
- Talked about this being a marathon…and that all of the DeWine children were distance runners…Gov said that his running stopped in 8th grade
- Shout out to 113 health departments in Ohio for doing the testing and tracing
- Governor made a personal plea for those over 65 to be careful
- Governor closed with a video from COSI about their “Digital Science Festival”

Lt. Governor Jon Husted

- The Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board will set the regulations for salons and barbershops
- “Employers are going to be calling people back to work”
- LG said that he did a call with John Barker with the Ohio Restaurant Association and said that ORA has put out a “Restaurant Promise” to protect employers and employees

Ohio Specific Numbers

- 22,131 confirmed cases (12,174 males and 9,842 females) (up 555 from yesterday) (3,482 or 16% are healthcare workers)
- 4,140 hospitalizations
- 1,167 admissions to ICU
- 1,271 deaths (increase in 46 from yesterday)
- 175,060 Ohioans tested

Other Information from Dr. Acton

- Box It In—how do we “box in” the virus is a model they are using: Test, Isolate, Find, and Quarantine
At first we were at a spread rate of 1 to 2.3 people but now we are at 1 to 1 ratio because of social distancing