

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE JANUARY 15, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 714,168 confirmed cases
- 42,491 hospitalizations
- 8,974 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 22.97 million cases
- 383,351 fatalities

World:

- 91.49 million cases
- 1.98 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Governor DeWine and Mayor Ginter Prepare for Protests

Following concerns of protests in Columbus, Governor Mike DeWine and Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginter announced measures to secure the Statehouse and other downtown government buildings. These locations will be closed Sunday through Wednesday. The Governor has also approved the deployment of 500 Ohio National Guard members to the nation's capital, in addition to the 200 members that were sent to Washington, D.C. earlier this week.

Measures Signed Into Law

Throughout the week, Governor Mike DeWine signed a number of bills into law. Over the weekend, a number of criminal justice measures were given approval by the Governor, including legislation to bar a sentence of life parole for juvenile offenders in most cases (SB 256), close a loophole in the state's human trafficking law (HB 431), and legislation pertaining to obtaining occupational licenses for those with criminal records (HB 263). HB 136 was signed into law to create exceptions to capital punishment for those diagnosed with a number of mental illnesses. Additionally, bills regarding abortion (SB 260), PTSD (HB 308), and a number of critical infrastructure bills. Governor DeWine vetoed SB 375, which would void a state health order regarding county fairs. News releases with a full list of bills signed can be found [here](#).

Broadband Pilot Program Collaboration Detailed

Lt. Governor Jon Husted detailed a collaborative effort to enhance internet access at Riverside Local School District in Logan County. Several projects funded through Ohio's K-12 Broadband Connectivity Grant. The program is a collaborative effort with OARnet and PCs for

People, allowing wireless technology to be fixed to lights on the school's football field giving 600 households in the area broadband access.

Liz Walters New head of Ohio Democratic Party

On Thursday, the Ohio Democratic Party's executive committee chose Liz Walters to head the ODP, following the resignation of David Pepper last year.

Introduced Bills

SB 1 – Financial Literacy (Wilson, McColley): Relating to teaching financial literacy in high school.

SB 2 – Mental Health Treatments (Gavarone): To make changes to requirements for competency evaluations and mental health treatment in criminal cases and to enter into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)