

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE AUGUST 14, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 100,945 confirmed cases
- 12,128 hospitalizations
- 3,510 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 5.26 million cases
- 167,000 fatalities

World:

- 20.9 million cases
- 760,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

-Governor DeWine Press Conference

Wednesday:

Thursday:

-Governor DeWine Press Conference
-Weekly Unemployment Report

Friday:

A House Divided

Though the House recently elected a new Speaker, major divisions remain between the incoming leadership team selected by Speaker Bob Cupp (right) and the outgoing Householder leadership team. The majority caucus narrowly selected Cupp over Rep. Jim Butler, the Speaker Pro Tem during the previous administration. Speaker Cupp asked the former leadership team to resign but was met with significant pushback. Ultimately, Rep.



Laura Lanese was the only leadership member to resign her post. In an attempt to press forward, Speaker Cupp removed all other members of the leadership team from the Rules and Reference Committee (which sets the House agenda) and appointed Representatives Antani, Scherer, Ginter, and Plummer in their places. The next few weeks will likely be comprised of further leadership confirmations for the Cupp administration, dismantling of the previous leadership team, and an eventual renewed focus on priority legislative issues.

Minority Health Task Force Proposals

On Thursday, Governor DeWine outlined the results and final report released by the Minority Health Strike Force, originally formed in April to address and propose solutions to racial disparities in healthcare and other sectors. The 41-member panel's final report includes 34 recommendations to address issues across the state, along with an action plan created through recommendations of the Governor's Equity Advisory Board. The Governor commended the work of the Strike Force but vowed that his administration's efforts were a "work in progress" to be continuously improved and examined.

Committee Addresses Pharmacy Benefits

The Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee met for the first time since November this week seeking answers on issues surrounding pharmacy benefits. Department of Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran addressed delays in the procurement timeline and answered questions from the committee concerning pharmacy benefits. Committee members discussed issues with the single PBM process, proposal loopholes, separation from the overall managed care system, and the pass-through model.

Introduced Bills

HB 747: Drug Prescribing - Regarding the prescribing and dispensing of drugs for off-label uses.

SB 351: Day Designation - To designate August 31 as "Ohio Overdose Awareness Day."

SB 352: Municipal Taxes - To modify municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees.