

**THIS WEEK**  
AT THE  
**STATEHOUSE**  
JANUARY 8, 2021



**CURRENT COVID STATS**

Ohio:

- 678,441 confirmed cases
- 40,787 hospitalizations
- 8,589 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 21.26 million cases
- 359,849 fatalities

World:

- 86.75 million cases
- 1.89 million fatalities

**NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

**Opening Day Session**

On Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, both chambers held their opening day session where majority and minority leadership was formally chosen, priorities were outlined for the year, and a number of administrative measures were passed to effectively begin the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Leadership for 2021 can be found [here](#). Priorities outlined by Speaker Bob Cupp include a call for innovative policy solutions and a robust committee process, as well as a fix to the school funding formula and broadband expansion.

**'Stand Your Ground' Bill Signed into Law**

Following the chambers passage of SB 175, which removes the duty to retreat language in any place where a person is allowed to be in cases when they feel a threat to their life, Governor Mike DeWine signed the bill into law after expressing disappointment that it was not accompanied by his STRONG Ohio gun proposal that was introduced during the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

**COVID Vaccination Rollout Continues**

The Governor has continued to provide updates on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout in Ohio. Ohioans in the general population over the age of 80 will become eligible to receive the vaccination beginning the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>; K-12 employees at school districts who plan on being either hybrid or fully in-person by March 1<sup>st</sup> will become eligible to receive a vaccine on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Broadband Expansion Plan Listed as Priority**

Speaker Bob Cupp and Senate President Matt Huffman have listed the broadband expansion plan that did not clear the chambers last session as an early priority as the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly begins, and one that will be reintroduced soon. Legislation in the last session included the creation of a Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program and a Broadband Expansion Program Authority, among other measures to assure Ohioans have effective access to the internet.

## **Introduced Bills**

No new bill introductions.