

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE APRIL 9, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 863,980 confirmed cases
- 53,169 hospitalizations
- 18,611 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 30.28 million cases
- 549,098 fatalities

World:

- 128.54 million cases
- 2.81 million fatalities

Health Orders Consolidated

During Monday's press conference, Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Department of Health issued a new simplified health order as the state sees an increase in COVID-19 cases. The new order prioritizes mask wearing, social distancing, being outside, and limiting the size of gatherings. The order allows for outdoor events without capacity limits, but establishes protocol for group sizes at those events. Events at indoor facilities are still limited to 25%. Further guidance will come regarding proms, graduations, and other events; however, the Governor confirmed that these events will be able to occur. The number of COVID cases in the state continues to rise, with an average of 183.7 cases per 100,000 people, up from last week's average of 167.1.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- House Ag and Conservation (9 am)
- House Finance (9:30 am)
- House Health (11 am)
- House Transportation and Public Safety (11 am)
- House Civil Justice (3 pm)
- House Primary and Secondary Education (4 pm)

Wednesday:

- House Finance (9:30 am)
- Senate Finance (10 am)
- House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs (11 am)

Thursday:

- Senate Finance (9 am)
- House Finance (9:30 am)
- House Energy and Natural Resources (10 am)
- House Families, Aging and Human Services (11 am)
- House Rules and Reference (11 am)

Friday:

Governor Calls for Federal Dollars to Pay Unemployment Debt

After discussions with House Speaker Bob Cupp and Senate President Matt Huffman, Governor DeWine called for a renewed effort to repay the state's \$1.4 billion in federal debt the state incurred while bolstering its unemployment system when it was overwhelmed by the pandemic. The three agreed that a portion of the state's money from the American Rescue Plan should be used to pay off this debt. The Governor did not offer a specific proposal to the General Assembly.

Ohio Senate Race Candidate Update

This week, Northeast Ohio entrepreneur Bernie Moreno announced his intent to run for the Senate vacancy that will be left by Senator Rob Portman. Former Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton announced that she will not run for the seat, after stepping down as director of the Columbus Foundation's Kind Columbus initiative. Ex-Ohio Republican Party Chair Jane Timken and former State Treasurer Josh Mandel are both planning to run for the seat. Ex-Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and US Rep. Joyce Beatty have both gone on record that they do not plan to run for the seat.

Bill Introductions

HB 247 - Plumbing Inspections (West, T., Kelly, B.): To amend the law related to plumbing inspections.

HB 248 - Vaccinations (Gross, J.): To authorize an individual to decline a vaccination and to name this act the Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act.

SB 152 - Task Force Establishment (Hoagland, F.): To establish the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Task Force in the office of the Attorney General and to make an appropriation.

SB 153 - Pilot Program Expansion (Hoagland, F.): To expand the Electroencephalogram Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Pilot Program and to make an appropriation