

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE

AUGUST 20, 2021



## CURRENT COVID STATS

### Ohio:

- 973,406 confirmed cases
- 63,915 hospitalizations
- 20,648 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 37.26 million cases
- 623,244 fatalities

### World:

- 209.2 million cases
- 4.39 million fatalities

## COVID-19 Resurgence

This week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine held a press conference to address rising COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the state as the Delta variant becomes more prevalent. As of Tuesday, the number of newly reported cases was 3,235, well above the 21-day average of 1,945. Hospitalizations and ICU admissions were also elevated. Governor DeWine encouraged students who are 12 and older to be vaccinated, and that those who are not vaccinated should wear masks while in school to avoid education disruptions. The Governor did not issue any additional orders or mandates. When asked about vaccine mandates, he said he did not believe school districts or any unit of government should mandate vaccines.

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Monday:

### Tuesday:

- House Health (11:00 am)

### Wednesday:

### Thursday:

### Friday:

## Vaccination Bill

House Bill 248, a proposal that would bar entities from imposing vaccine mandates, will go before the House Health Committee next week. House Health Committee is reconvening early at the request of Chairman Scott Lipps, and will only consider HB 248. Groups such as the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Medical Association have reiterated their opposition to this bill, with concerns that it conflicts with the state's at-will employment laws, and will be a detriment to the health and safety of employees, patients, and visitors alike. The committee hearing on August 24<sup>th</sup> is set to be four hours long, and will alternate between opponent and proponent testimony.

## OneOhio Settlement

Following a press conference held by Attorney General Dave Yost, 142 of the 143 litigating local governments have joined OneOhio, a plan to distribute opioid litigation settlement funds to local governments. Under the plan, 55% of the money will go to a newly created foundation to disburse money to programs designed to benefit Ohioans impacted by opioids along with addition prevention initiatives; 15% will be earmarked for local communities; 15% will go to the state.

## Bill Introductions

HB 390 - Sexual Assault (Lanese, L., John, M.): To require governmental evidence-retention entities to secure and test sexual assault examination kits in relation to an investigation or prosecution of trafficking in persons.

HB 391 - Anti-Prostitution (Miller, A., Galonski, T.): To create the anti-prostitution grant program fund and to make an appropriation.

HB 392 - Police Dog (Ferguson, R., Miller, K.): To authorize ambulance transport of an injured police dog when the dog is injured in the line of duty.

HB 393 - Highway Designation (Click, G.): To designate a portion of State Route 19 in Sandusky county as the "Teresa M. Martin 9/11 Memorial Highway."

HB 394 - License Plate (Carruthers, S.): To create the "Stephen T. Badin High School" license plate.

HB 395 - Highway Designation (Powell, J.): To designate a portion of I-75 in Miami County as the "Ohio State Highway Patrol MCEI Kimra Skelton Memorial Highway."

HB 396 - Fair Paycheck Workplace (Smith, K., Smith, M.): To create the fair paycheck workplace certificate.