

April 9, 2020



CHAMBER of COMMERCE

PROMOTE. ENGAGE. ADVANCE. LEAD.

# MEMBER NEWS

## COVID-19 Crisis Edition 19



Due to the holiday, your next member update will be sent out on Monday, April 13. Please enjoy a Good Friday, a joyous Easter weekend, and email with any information you would like to share next week. Stay safe, stay healthy, and although it may be becoming a cliché: remember, we're all in this together, Preble County! — Leslie Collins, Executive Director

### PCCOC COVID-19 Impact Survey: Please participate

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you and your business? The Preble County Chamber of Commerce is seeking your responses to enable us to check in on our members, and likewise, allow us to better plan for future programming and resources. If you haven't already, please visit [www.preblecountyohio.com](http://www.preblecountyohio.com) and click on "Take our COVID-19 Impact Survey" to provide us with your responses to 10 questions.

### Important resources available

**BWC Dividend payments:** Ohio Governor Mike DeWine yesterday announced he has asked the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to give up to \$1.6 billion to Ohio employers to help ease the economic impact of COVID-19 on Ohio's economy and business community.

The proposed amount equals 100 percent of the premium employers paid in policy year 2018. As in previous years, the dividend is possible because of strong investment returns on employer premiums, a declining number of claims each year, and prudent fiscal management.

BWC provides workers' compensation insurance to more than 248,000 private and public employers in Ohio. Should the proposed \$1.6 billion dividend total be approved by BWC's Board of Directors an estimated \$1.4 billion would go to private employers and approximately \$200 million would go to local government taxing districts (counties, cities, schools, etc.)

BWC has prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document to provide information about the COVID-19's impact on BWC operations. BWC's Board of Directors will hold an emergency meeting Friday to vote on the proposed dividend. Once approved, BWC will begin to mail the checks to employers later this month. You can access the FAQ's [HERE](#), and an informational BWC Employer Dividend Guide [HERE](#). The BWC's board of directors is slated to hold a virtual meeting on Friday to vote on the proposal.

**U.S. Chamber Virtual Town Hall with Inc.** – As the economic pause caused by coronavirus endures, businesses are racing to understand and access the \$350 billion in loans provided by the CARES Act to help impacted small businesses. Emergency loans are newly available to sole proprietors, and new guidance accompanies this relief. Estimates indicate the total amount of aid isn't enough to address current needs, and Congress is considering extending more funds to small businesses. This Friday, April 10, at noon, *Inc.* and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will team up for a virtual National Small Business Town Hall to help small business owners and sole proprietors alike navigate the programs that are available to them. *Inc.* Editor-At-Large Kimberly Weisul will moderate a discussion with the U.S. Chamber's Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley to lay out the new guidance for sole proprietors, address the steps all impacted businesses should take to tap into available resources, and discuss the potential for more aid in the future. A panel of business experts will join them to questions from business owners of all sizes, and to offer counsel to anyone attempting to access the loans the CARES Act provides. [Click here to register.](#)

**Sole proprietors can now join the SOCA (Health Insurance) Benefit Plan:** Anthem and SOCA just announce the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance (SOCA) Benefit Plan is making room for sole proprietors. They can enroll in the plan starting July 1. The broker community has already received instructions from Anthem regarding new case submission. Quoting starts April 20. An eligible sole proprietor must: meet underwriting requirements, work more than 30 hours per week (documentation required) and submit a cover page for Form 1040 with Schedule C or Form 1040 with Schedules F and SE. [\(CLICK HERE FOR SOCA BENEFIT PLAN INFORMATION\)](#)

Regulations limit sole proprietor membership to 10 percent of total SOCA Benefit Plan membership. This is limited to sole proprietors. Presently this offer is not intended for non-profit organizations with one employee. Please contact your local Anthem broker with questions. Preble County Chamber member brokers include [Simon Insurance](#) and [Cincinnati Benefit Solutions](#).

**Ohio Treasurer implements program for hospitals, provides PPP info:** With costs mounting as hospitals across Ohio test and care for the influx of COVID-19

patients, Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague has launched the Variable Rate Demand Obligation (VRDO) Stabilization Program to provide added liquidity and ease the financial pressure hospitals are facing. You can read more about it [HERE](#). Treasurer Sprague's office also issued a new set of FAQs regarding the Paycheck Protection Program. You can download that document [HERE](#).

During this trying time, you can always visit [HERE](#) for the most complete and up-to-date information about resources available for Ohio businesses, individuals, and families. You can also find all of the Small Business Administration's resources [HERE](#).

## Member updates and news to keep you informed

**From Dayton Power & Light:** DP&L is implementing changes to ease the financial burden for customers facing hardships. Plus, business customers may take advantage of benefits in the federal CARES Act. See the latest updates at: [www.dpandl.com/update](http://www.dpandl.com/update).

For residential customers, in addition to the suspension of disconnections already announced, the following customer payment relief actions are also in place for the duration of the State of Emergency.

DP&L is temporarily waiving customer reconnection fees, late payment fees, and service fees for credit and debit card payments. The up-front security deposit for service connects is no longer required. If a customer's situation requires a deposit, it will be posted on the first bill statement.

To assist customers, DP&L will arrange flexible payment plans for past due balances. To avoid the risk of face-to-face contact, DP&L is suspending in-person meter reading. If they cannot read your meter, they will estimate your usage, subject to reconciliation when they are able to read your meter.

DP&L is extending the winter reconnect policy through May 1. Eligible customers may pay no more than \$175 to have service reconnected or maintained, including customers who have already used the policy during the 2019-2020 winter season.

Customers can perform nearly all customer service functions online and through DP&L's automated voice phone system. Sign in or create a profile at [mydpandl.com](http://mydpandl.com). Residential customers call 800-433-8500; business customers call 800-253-5801.

"We continue working in your community," DP&L officials said. "You will still see DP&L field technicians working in and around your community. As always, their work is helping to ensure that residential communities, businesses and critical facilities have the power they need. As a precaution, if you do see our workers, please avoid approaching them and their work areas. If there is a need to speak with them, be aware that they will be maintaining at least 6 feet of separation. We'll also be keeping this recommended distance anytime direct interaction for essential services is required on customer properties, inside homes and businesses, consistent with CDC and other public health guidelines."

**Reid Health** has created its own COVID-19 dashboard which provides information on current hospital stats regarding confirmed cases, testing, etc., and information to help everyone "Plan, Don't Panic." The site can be accessed [HERE](#).

**Edison State Community College** has made the decision to support the class of 2020 graduates by offering a **100%** tuition scholarship to everyone who graduates from a high school in our service area this spring. You can download a flyer [HERE](#). Edison State is open and spring courses are going on now. All campuses are closed, but courses and services are available with distance technology. Students can register now for summer courses (all on-line) or fall courses. The fall schedule is back to its traditional mix of online and in classroom classes, but we do have a back-up on-line section ready for every course possible as needed. All student services including advising, course registration, career counseling and financial aid are available on the web or with a phone appointment. New students do not need to have an ACT, SAT, or other placement exam. Edison will place the students using their high school GPA or an individualized college readiness assessment completed with an Edison State Advisor. Contact [cspradlin@edisonohio.edu](mailto:cspradlin@edisonohio.edu) with any questions about academic or student services.

**Preble County Public Health:** Preble County Public Health (PCPH) confirmed on Wednesday the first death in Preble County from 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual is a female in their late 60's who tested positive for the virus in March. "Our entire staff extends our deepest and heartfelt condolences to all the family members in the wake of this tragedy," said Erik Balster, Health Commissioner. "Preble County is a close community. This affects us all." You can read the entire press release [HERE](#).

**LCNB National Bank:** LCNB's office located at 1697 N. Barron St. in Eaton is temporarily closed for precautionary reasons because the branch shares its structure with a busy retail establishment. The ATM remains open, despite the temporary closure of the lobby and drive-through lanes. Barron Street clients are encouraged to visit the LCNB branch two miles south at 110 W. Main St. in Eaton. All other Preble County branches remain open, serving clients through the drive-through, and in lobbies by appointment (call 800-344-2265). For information on COVID-19 loan relief, clients are encouraged to visit [LCNB.com](http://LCNB.com) and review the various programs described there.

## From the Statehouse

**Here's the news from yesterday:** Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Dr. Amy Acton on Wednesday thanked Ohioans who are staying home to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and urged everyone to continue their efforts.

"The fear I have when we have silent victories is that people will start to say that COVID-19 was never there to begin with or that there was never a threat," said Dr. Acton. "Please know that this battle is still ongoing. We are blessed that we had early mitigation, but we need to stay there. There is no way out of this without what we're doing together. Please continue to stay home."

### Correction officer death

Governor DeWine also announced Wednesday a member of Ohio's state-employee family, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Officer John Dawson, died after testing positive for COVID-19 on March 30. Officer Dawson, 55, of Mansfield, had been a corrections officer at the Marion Correctional Institution since 1996. He most recently worked in the control center handing out equipment to staff.

"Our hearts go out to John's family, friends, and his co-workers," said Governor DeWine. "His death reminds us that, although Ohio is doing well compared to other states, we are still seeing a large number of deaths. These are all people who were loved, and our hearts go out to everyone who has lost a loved one to COVID-19."

### Personal protective equipment shortage

The personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage in Ohio remains severe. Governor DeWine made a plea to healthcare workers using N95 masks to send them to Battelle which can serialize up to 160,000 masks each day, making them reusable up to 20 times. "I want to make a public plea to everyone using these masks - every mask is precious, please don't throw them away," said Governor DeWine. "We are trying to get more N95 masks in Ohio, but we still don't have enough. When you throw a mask away you are depriving someone else of having a mask because we only have so many." Hospitals should contact Battelle at [battelle.org](http://battelle.org) to arrange for mask sterilization. Governor DeWine also thanked Apple and Apple CEO Tim Cook for recently donating 100,000 N95 masks to Ohio for frontline healthcare workers. The masks will be added to Ohio's stockpile for distribution. More PPE donations for frontline workers are still urgently needed. To donate, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

### Child abuse

Since Ohio's stay at home order began on March 22, Ohio has seen approximately a 50-percent drop in child abuse and neglect cases because those who typically report suspicions of abuse — such as teachers, coaches, child care providers, and school counselors and nurses — aren't seeing children every day. Governor DeWine urged everyone to report any suspected abuse or neglect by calling 855-OH-CHILD.

### Current Ohio data

As of Wednesday, there were 5,148 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 193 deaths. A total of 1,495 people have been hospitalized, including 472 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

**PREBLE COUNTY UPDATE:** Yesterday afternoon, Preble County Public Health reported the county's 8<sup>th</sup> confirmed case of COVID-19 and first death.

## Has your name been called?



**ONLINE CHAMBER MEMBER ROLL CALL:** Over the course of the next few weeks, the Preble County Chamber will be conducting a CHAMBER MEMBER ROLL CALL on Facebook to touch base with our membership, gauge their needs, and hopefully allow page followers to learn more about some of the businesses in their community. When you see your company's name tagged/listed in the comments below this image, tell us: if you are open/operating, about your business industry/ products /services, and any additional information you'd like to provide.

**Find links to additional resources**

**and all our daily Preble County updates at**

**[WWW.PREBLECOUNTYOHIO.COM](http://WWW.PREBLECOUNTYOHIO.COM)**



**Find us on:**  
**facebook®**