

March 19, 2020



PREBLE
COUNTY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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MEMBER NEWS

COVID-19 Crisis Edition 3

Important unemployment info available

Please share with any employees, family or friends who may be facing a lay-off -- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at unemployment.ohio.gov.

Helpful FAQ Sheets and General Information can be found at: jfs.ohio.gov/unemp_comp_faq/index.stm.

Coronavirus-Specific Information can be found at: jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm. Ohioans without computer access should call 1-877-644-6562 (OHIO-JOB).

Extended Call Center Hours: Those without internet access or who have case-specific questions can call 1-877-644-6562 (OHIO-JOB) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. (The call center formerly was operational from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.)

Coronavirus-Related Claims: Workers who lose their jobs as a result of the coronavirus can enter the mass-layoff number 2000180 on their applications. However, if affected individuals have already submitted claims without this number, they do not need to add it. As a reminder, mass layoff notices are posted at jfs.ohio.gov/warn/current.stm.

Member updates and news to keep you informed:

Taylor & Associates Insurance Agency in Lewisburg will be open as normal and can transact business by electronic means such as eSig, web forms and of course phone, text and email if a customer wishes. Website: www.tayloragy.com; phone: 937-962-2123.

Preble County Council on Aging is encouraging area seniors in need of companionship, a meal, grocery store or pharmacy runs to "Phone-A-Friend" at PCCOA. Licensed professionals are available to help. Seniors can call 937-456-4947 and ask for Cheryl.

Coblentz Agency in New Madison is open, however, as things continue to evolve and as more information becomes available they thought it was best for the safety of employees and the safety of clients to close the office to the public at this time. Staff is still available to assist with clients' needs.

Payments can be placed in the mail drop and will be processed during normal business hours. If you have questions, claims or need changes to your policy please call us at (937) 996-1581 or email agency@gocoblentz.com. "Please know this is not our preferred method of doing business, we love talking with our clients to hear about how you and your families are doing," agent Jennifer Fleagle said, "but we feel like it is better to take extra precautions at this point to keep everyone in the community as safe as possible."

IRS news: On March 18, the Internal Revenue Service released Notice 2020-17, which extends the due date for a certain amount of federal income tax payments otherwise due on April 15, 2020, for certain taxpayers.

The extension of time to make certain tax payments is granted to individual taxpayers up to \$1 million and to corporate taxpayers or consolidated groups up to \$10 million. The federal income tax payments due April 15, 2020, include both payments related to the Taxpayer's 2019 tax year and first quarter estimated tax payments related to the Taxpayer's 2020 tax year.

Specifically, the notice provides an additional 90 days to remit required federal income tax payment, due on April 15, 2020. This means that no penalties or interest will be imposed by IRS until July 16, 2020.

For those taxpayers with an unpaid tax in excess of the threshold amounts listed above, penalties and interest will be imposed on amounts in excess of the applicable threshold amount on April 15, 2020.

This relief is applicable only to income tax payments and has no effect on other types of tax payments, such as estate, gift, or payroll tax liabilities.

It is important to note, this extension of time applies ONLY to tax payments, and not to the filing of any tax return. As such, tax returns (or a valid extension) must still be filed by April 15, 2020.



Eaton Computer: Effective March 18, due to the COVID -19 outbreak and out of abundance of caution for client safety and for the safety of their staff, the offices of Eaton Computer will be closed to all visitors and guests immediately. “We will be continuing to provide support to our healthcare professionals, first responders and customers without interruption,” Robert Unruh noted in an announcement to customers. “If you need further assistance or to speak with the Helpdesk or our office’s, please feel free to contact us directly during normal business hours @ 937.456.4332.”

Preble County Power Equipment in Eaton is currently operating at regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is also open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. PCPE is also offering mulch delivery as well as lawn mower servicing for lawn mowers of all shapes and sizes. Pick-up and delivery will be available for the Spring Mower Service. PCPE’s Facebook page has additional available.

AG Yost Warns of outbreak of scams related to Coronavirus

COLUMBUS — Fear and uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic could give rise to an outbreak of scams, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost warned today.

“COVID-19 is not the only thing we have to protect ourselves against,” Yost said. “Thieves and crooks prey on fear and uncertainty. Ohioans need to inoculate themselves against an outbreak of scams with knowledge and good practices.”

Yost encourages Ohioans to follow these tips to avoid coronavirus-related scams:

Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other expert sources with special advice or information about the coronavirus. Legitimate information is available for free on the [CDC’s website](#).

- Ignore online advertisements promoting cures for the coronavirus. According to the Federal Trade Commission, “There currently are no vaccines, pills, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) online or in stores.”

Research nonprofit organizations and crowdfunding campaigns before donating. A [database of registered charities](#) is available on the Ohio Attorney General’s website. Avoid groups that pressure you into donating and never donate via cash, gift cards, wire transfer or prepaid money card. These are the preferred payment methods of scammers.

- Be cautious of anyone going door to door offering coronavirus testing or temperature readings and requesting personal information. Call law enforcement immediately if you see a suspicious person. Never let strangers into your home.
- Beware of emails and other attempts to “phish” for your personal, financial and medical information. When in doubt, do not share. If the source claims to be your bank or a government agency, confirm they are legitimate by calling the organization at a phone number you have verified.

Amid discussions of providing working families with government checks, know that nothing has been formalized yet. For more information, visit the [Federal Trade Commission](#) website and stay tuned for updates from reliable news sources.

- When online, avoid clicking on unknown links or pop-ups and never download any suspicious email attachment. Doing so could infect your devices with malicious software designed to steal your personal information or lock your computer until you pay a ransom. Consumers who suspect an unfair or deceptive sales practice should contact the Ohio Attorney General’s Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515.

Ohio BWC update from CareWorks Comp: Many employers are concerned about coverage for their employees who may be sent to work from home on a temporary basis. Each claim is unique and will have its own set of facts to guide us. Below are some general guidelines to keep in mind in the event you have a teleworker who files a claim application. The scenarios described below are not all encompassing but should give you some direction as you investigate these instances:

Typically work from home employees are NOT covered if: Worker trips over their dog and breaks their wrist while going to the bathroom Worker decides to load some dishes in the dishwasher and cuts themselves Worker goes outside their home to go for a walk and falls off their porch Worker makes lunch and gets food poisoning from it . Worker goes to McDonalds for lunch and gets in a car accident. Worker drives into the office to get work items needed for job but deviates from route to stop at the bank for personal reasons and gets into an accident

Typically work from home employees MAY be covered if: Worker is at home workstation and reaches for a binder and hurts shoulder Worker is at home workstation and chair breaks and they fall and hurt their back Worker has poor ergo arrangement for their workstation and develop wrist tendonitis Worker drives into the office to get work items needed for job and gets into an accident .

Questions for CareWorks Comp? Email info@careworkscomp.com.

Email your updates to leslie.collins@preblecountyohio.com.

Deadline to be included in the next day’s update is 5 p.m.