

May 20, 2020



CHAMBER of COMMERCE

PROMOTE. ENGAGE. ADVANCE. LEAD.

MEMBER NEWS

Preble County Recovery Edition 46

ICYMI: Chamber Energy Program



Did you miss last week's Chamber Energy call? Our partners at Community Energy Advisors are scheduled to speak with our members again next month! Our small business community has been hit hard by mandatory closures and safety measures required to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Many business owners are struggling to cover their bills and are asking for help and wondering what they can do. Along with over 200 Chambers of Commerce in the State of Ohio, we offer the Chamber

Energy Program to our members to help reduce their utility costs. On average, members are saving 15-20%. Learn how to reduce your costs so you can immediately put money back into your business. Join us from the comfort of your own home to learn more about this program, Tuesday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Member news & other resources

Face coverings from BWC: The Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) will be distributing at least 2 million non-medical-grade face coverings to Ohio employers who are covered by BWC. Public and private employers that participate in the State Insurance Fund will receive a package from BWC containing at least 50 face coverings. These packages will be shipped in batches beginning today. The masks are funded through BWC's existing budget and will not impact any premiums.



From the Office of Congressman Warren Davidson: You will find below two linked letters which may be of interest to Chamber members. Congressman Davidson has agreed to sign both letters.

Letter to House Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy urging regulatory reform be included in the next phase of COVID-19 relief legislation. From the letter: federal regulation costs US businesses as much as \$1.9 trillion annually, or \$15,003 per small business employee. Read more here: https://chabot.house.gov/uploadedfiles/reg_relief_final.pdf

Letter to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin requesting a delay of federal excise tax deadlines for all domestic beer, wine, and distilled spirits through the remainder of the calendar year 2020, including any interest and penalties accrued. Read more here: https://blumenauer.house.gov/sites/blumenauer.house.gov/files/2020-05-18%20Mnuchin%20Alcohol%20Excise%20Tax%20Deferral_FINAL.pdf



For our Ag partners: Farmers and Ranchers to Receive Direct Support for Losses Related to COVID-19 — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue yesterday announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's [Farmers to Families Food Box](#) program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.

"America's farming community is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation tackles the coronavirus. President Trump has authorized USDA to ensure our patriotic farmers, ranchers, and producers are supported and we are moving quickly to open applications to get payments out the door and into the pockets of farmers," said Secretary Perdue. "These payments will help keep farmers afloat while market demand returns as our nation reopens and recovers. America's farmers are resilient and will get through this challenge just like they always do with faith, hard work, and determination."

Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses. You can read more [HERE](#).

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.



MEMBERS: Help us, help you! If your business is open and you would like us to help share your information, please reach out to our Chamber office by emailing your information to leslie.collins@preblecountyohio.com.

From the Statehouse

Yesterday, Governor DeWine released details of the new "Ohioans Protecting Ohioans Urgent Health Advisory" which replaces the Stay Safe Ohio order issued by the Ohio Department of Health on April 30. The health advisory replaces language requiring Ohioans to stay at home with limited exceptions, with language which strongly recommends citizens, especially those who are high-risk, stay at home as much as possible. **The order does not change the mass gathering restrictions, which remain at a 10-person limit.** The new health advisory also lifts overall travel restrictions and the requirement to quarantine if someone travels to or returns to Ohio. Unnecessary travel within or outside of Ohio is not encouraged.

Additionally, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not recovered, those who are presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19, and those who are exhibiting the symptoms identified in the screening guidance available from the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health, remain prohibited from entering the state of Ohio unless they are doing so under medical orders for purposes of medical care, are being transported by emergency medical services EMS, are driving or being driven directly to a medical provider for the purposes of initial care, or are a permanent resident of Ohio.

CURRENT OHIO DATA: As of Tuesday, there have been 28,952 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 reported in Ohio and 1,720 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 4,998 people have been hospitalized, including 1,357 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

CURRENT PREBLE COUNTY DATA: According to Preble County Public Health, as of Monday, May 18, there have been 31 total confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, 28 of which are reported as having recovered; five total hospitalizations, and one death.

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Supporting the members that support the Chamber

For additional resources, visit

[WWW.PREBLECOUNTYOHIO.COM](https://www.preblecountyohio.com)