Dear Members,

There’s a lot continuing to happen, let’s get to the updates:

**Governor DeWine Announces New Opening Dates**

Today, two of the industries that were the earliest to be shut down received dates for reopening as the Governor announced dates for restaurants/bars and for personal services.

- Personal care services such as hair salons, barbershops, day spas, nail salons, and tanning facilities may reopen on May 15. ([Requirements & Best Practices here](#)) Note that licensed massage therapists will be receiving further guidance from the [State Medical Board](#).

- Restaurants and bars in Ohio will be permitted to reopen as follows:
  - Outdoor dining: May 15
  - Dine-in service: May 21 ([Requirements & Best Practices here](#); additional guidance)

They had the committee chairs of both of those groups speak on the press conference today (go to minute 16:45 for restaurant chair; and 25:45 for personal services chair). If your business is one of these affected, I would recommend you listen to their report. They talked about how they made decisions and why. One example – the restaurant group opted not to recommend an occupancy limit – rather, they looked at the distancing guidelines. It’s worth it to watch.

We did not get a reopening date for childcare but the Governor reported that would be forthcoming on Monday. No specific dates for the other groups they have working (ie. gyms, tourism, sports) but the groups are working and I expect we will hear more soon and I will definitely let you know as soon as we do.

**Preparing to Open**

As your businesses get ready to reopen, it is important that you spend some time preparing. I’ve been doing that for the Chamber office itself and it’s not necessarily hard, but it does take some thinking, planning and preparing.

I found [this great resource](#) that has been very helpful to me as I plan. It’s from Cushman & Wakefield and includes a great checklist that covers the “Safe Six”:

1. Prepare the building
2. Prepare the workforce
3. Control access
4. Create a social distancing plan
5. Reduce touchpoints
6. Communicate with confidence

Getting our supplies in order, our schedule ready, updating policies and procedures are all things that I’ve been working on...and I know many of you have as well. If you’ve run across another helpful resource on this topic, feel free to share with me so I can in turn share with the larger group. Don’t forget the [Kroger Blueprint](#) which also has some really helpful best practices.

- [Here’s our updated](#) PPE Local Supplier guide.
- Don’t forget the [OSHA Standards](#) for protecting employees – this [5-page US Chamber document](#) boils it down for you.
Here’s a nifty little customizable sign that you can use to post on your doors to share what you’re doing to protect people from the US Chamber.

Federal Loan Program Updates
As the current round of PPP funding starts to diminish, we’re all looking ahead to the forgiveness process and awaiting more guidance from the SBA on how that will work. There are a lot of conversations happening in Washington DC about further changes to the program. We’ll try to keep you updated as we hear things.

- I do suggest listening to the US Chamber Town Hall webinars on Friday’s – here’s the link register for tomorrow @ Noon. Here’s the link to past sessions. The Chamber’s top policy person on this has been speaking at these and does a good job boiling it down.
- The IRS issued guidance that you will not be able to deduct the expenses you submit for PPP loan forgiveness. Though some in Congress have signaled that they do not agree with this. We will see if there are any changes.

The EIDL Program is only accepting new applications from agricultural businesses at this point, though the SBA has indicated they are working through the massive backlog of applications. If you have applied, keep checking your bank account for the advance because I’m hearing that people are just having it deposited with no notice.

Lastly, if you have not qualified for PPP, or chose not to use it, don’t forget about the Employee Retention Tax Credit program. And we’re waiting for more details about the Main Street Lending program. I am expecting the US Chamber to drop a handy overview of that program soon.

BWC Updates
So many State & Federal Agencies are sending out updates. One I haven’t mentioned in a while is the Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp, but they have some important things that someone on your team should be checking out:

- An updated FAQ regarding workers comp and the pandemic
- The updated payroll reporting guidelines – this has a lot of good info including:
  o If you are paying employees but they are not working – that payroll is not reportable as wages.
  o If you have switched employees to “work from home” temporarily, they may reclassified as tele-work.
- We have a new local rep to help businesses with Workers Comp: Lorrie Goodnight. She sent me this email with more updates on what you should know about updating your payroll for your estimated premiums. You can also reach out to her for help.
- Also, our group rating partner, CareWorks Comp sent us this update.

Dinner & A Show
Thanks to our partners at Destination Mansfield & Downtown Mansfield – tomorrow is our next installment of “Dinner & A Show” featuring the delicious food at DLX and the talented Kelly Knowlton! So order your takeout and tune in at 6:00pm for a great show!

#InThisTogetherOhio
I spotted this sign on the fence at St. Peter’s Church & School when I drove downtown yesterday. For some reason whenever I see these types of signs and public displays of encouragement, it always brings a little tear to my eye – in the best way. Thanks to our friends at St. Pete’s for the encouragement this week...we miss you, too!

Have a suggestion for a future spotlight here? Let me know!

Final Thoughts
As we enter this next phase of “Responsible Restart Ohio”, we keep hearing about how Ohioans can do two things at once – slow the spread of the virus and get our economy going again. Indeed, we really must do both, and I believe that we can and will.

The business leaders that I have come to know in this community understand the depth of the decisions they are making right now. They care about their employees, their community, and yes, certainly their companies. They have invested money, blood, sweat and tears into their businesses. They have risked it all to build these companies. I admire their tenacity, dedication, creativity, and faith.

In the coming months, we are all going to be making decisions that impact each other. I hope that as you face those decisions you will do so with honesty, clarity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and trust. Our lives and our livelihoods are in each others hands.

I recently finished rewatching the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and needed something new to watch. I decided to start rewatching the Marvel superhero movies (yes, in case you haven’t caught it by now, I’m a nerd!). You’ll be excited to know it has opened up a whole new world of inspirational quotes for me to share. 😊

But here’s one that seems appropriate:

*The world has changed, and none of us can go back. All we can do is our best, and sometimes, the best that we can do, is to start over.*

– Peggy Carter, CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER

So, here we go! We’re in the rebuilding. We’re in the restart. We’re going to do our best for each other. I’m on the journey with you; keep believing.

Onward!

Jodie

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PS – We have been widening our email list. If this is the first email you’ve received – Welcome! [Here is a link to our past emails](#) and other great resources to help your business!