



**Representative Emilia Strong Sykes  
Ohio House District 34  
Minority Leader**

As elected officials, our top priority is to protect the health and safety of everyday Ohioans. As we continue to work with state and local officials who are monitoring the situation on the ground in our communities across the state, be assured that we are doing our best to collect information that may be of assistance to you. We understand that we need to take immediate action to help those working families that are or will be impacted by the coronavirus in the near future.

Below are a list of both state and local resources. If you need additional resources or have concerns regarding this or other state related issues, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

**Akron Local Resources Due to COVID-19  
As of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Akron Public Schools

- **K-12 Meal Program:** During extended closure, student meals will be available at all APS neighborhood schools. Pickup will be Monday-Thursday at the schools main entrance from 9:30-11:30am. Students will receive "To Go" bags for breakfast and lunch every day and on Thursday they will be given extra meals to cover Friday. Meals are available for all children ages 1-18, regardless of the school they attend. No meals will be served at Ott, Essex, Stewart, Early College, NIHF STEM, STEM HS, I PROMISE, or Miller South. These students may come to any other neighborhood school and receive meals.

City of Akron

- **Akron Municipal Court:** All jury trials (civil and criminal) court proceedings continued through March. All criminal proceedings (bench trials, suppression hearings, restitution hearings, etc.) will be continued. Those who received a felony summons should report to Court as usual. All civil cases will be conducted by telephone conference or continued. All eviction hearings are continued for the remainder of March. The Court will contact the parties with new dates. All other cases (garnishments, revivers, small claims) are continued for the remainder of March
- **Water Supply Bureau:** Shut-off to cease for 30 days

- **Tax Payments:** Payments can be made online at 330-643-2632 or 330-643-2759, email at [summittreas@summitoh.net](mailto:summittreas@summitoh.net), or online at <http://FiscalOffice.summitoh.net>.
- **Homestead Exemption/ Owners Occupancy Tax Reduction:** can request a copy of the application by mail, call 330-643-2661 for more information.
- **United Way:** Emergency resources, call 211.

#### Ohio Edison

- **Electricity:** Effective immediately, FirstEnergy's 10 electric utilities have discontinued power shut offs for customers who are past due on the electric bills. Residential customers facing hardship due to lack of income during this time should contact the company as soon as they are aware that paying their bill might become difficult. Options include budget billing, energy assistance programs or other payment arrangements based on situation.

#### Dominion Energy

- **Gas / Electricity:** Dominion has suspended all service disconnections for nonpayment. Customers are strongly encouraged to manage their Dominion Energy account 24-7 using their digital tools. Customer's financial hardship or financial difficulty should contact 800-362-7557 to discuss payment options as soon as they are aware that paying their bill might become difficult.

#### Spectrum Internet

- Spectrum to offer Free Broadband and Wi-Fi Access to Households with K-12 and/or College Students. 60 days of free broadband and Wi-Fi to households with students who do not already have a Spectrum subscription. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households. Will allow public access to 75 Akron area free Wi-Fi hotspots available

#### AT&T

- AT&T will not terminate the service of any wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business customers. Will waive any late payment fees that any wireless, home phone, broadband residential, or small business customer may incur. Will keep public WI-FI spots open to public use

### Ohio Department of Public Safety

- Majority of BMV's to close including 52 examination stations. 5 facilities to remain open to issue commercial driver's license and renewals. Tickets won't be issued for license expirations stemming from the closures.

### Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

- **Enhanced unemployment aid for Ohioans:** The Governor issued an executive order, which grants the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services with the authority to accept and grant requests for unemployment compensation **suspending the normal 1-week waiting period.** This order will also **give relief to applicants who are not offered paid leave through their job,** as well as those who have been quarantined by a medical professional, their employer, or **whose employers must temporarily close.** Those who apply for unemployment under these circumstances will be exempt from the requirement that they be actively seeking work.
- [www.unemployment.ohio.gov](http://www.unemployment.ohio.gov)

### Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

- All incarcerated individuals will receive: **2 free 5 minute calls per week, free eBooks** through GTL, and **1 free 15 minute video call per week** through JPAY
- **Visiting will be suspended** indefinitely
- **Volunteers entering our facilities will be suspended** indefinitely
- Only mission critical contractors (construction, medical, food service, etc.) will be permitted to enter the facilities; mission critical will be determined by the managing officer
- Staff, mission critical contractors, and attorney **health screenings will begin upon entry** into the facilities
- No outside inmate workers will be in the community; inmate workers will only be permitted on state grounds
- Only mission critical transfers will take place; reception, medical, and security are mission critical
- In-service training will be changed to mission critical only
- CTA trainings will only be mission critical and those necessary for staff to maintain their positions/certificates/licensures

### Ohio Department of Education

- **K-12 schools will be closed for at least 3 weeks** (until April 6<sup>th</sup>)
- School districts' separately are deciding how to offer food to students while schools are closed

## Ohio Department of Commerce

- Division of Liquor Control will allow a **bar or restaurant to return unopened high proof products purchased within the past 30 days** as a way to provide economic assistance to bar and restaurant owners during coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This courtesy also extends to those who may have **obtained a temporary permit (F2) for an event, scheduled between March 12, 2020 and April 6, 2020 and that event is now cancelled.** Additional consideration will be given closer to April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 if needed. All a bar/restaurant or F2 permit holder needs to do is bring unopened high proof liquor product back to the Contract Liquor Agency they purchased the product. The Agency will call the Liquor Enterprise Center (LESC) for approval. Approval is immediate, but awareness of the return is necessary. For questions or more information regarding the one-time high proof liquor buy-back, please feel free to contact the LESC at 877-812-0013 or [OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov)

## Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Veterans Services

- Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who are absolutely necessary for the operation of the Homes. People who are **“absolutely necessary for the operations of the Homes”** include, but may not be limited to, home staff, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, contractors conducting critical on-site maintenance, and governmental representatives and regulators and their contractors. Included are also **no more than one (1) visitor per resident per day, except for end-of-life situations**
- **Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who have been screened for COVID-19 each time they enter the Homes.** Screening guidance is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as from the Ohio Department of Health. Screening should include questions about exposure to COVID-19 and assessing visitors and personnel for cough, shortness of breath, and body temperatures of 100.4 degrees and higher
- Restrict access to all Homes to as few points of entry as is possible, with the **Ohio Department of Health recommending one (1) point of entry.** This does not apply to emergency ingress or egress of facilities.
- Restrict access to all Homes only to those persons who produce legal federal- or state-issued identification and provide the Homes with business telephone numbers and addresses. It is the responsibility of the Homes to log such information, maintaining it for at least six (6) months.
- Allow residents to **discharge from Homes at any time** and in accordance with applicable state and federal law, understanding that residents that then return to the Homes while this Order is in effect are subject to the directives above.
- Comply with infection control precautions located in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-17-11(D) and 3701-16-12(C)

## Ohio Development Services Agency

- Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan program will enable small business owners to **apply for low-interest loans to help overcome temporary loss of revenue** due to the COVID-19 outbreak; for more info contact [BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.Gov](mailto:BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.Gov)