



Representative Emilia Strong Sykes Ohio House District 34 Minority Leader

HD 34 Related Resources Due to COVID-19 As of August 21, 2020

Do you think you may have coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Take these steps:

1. Start with a virtual visit or call your primary care physician. You will be advised what to do next.
2. **Call ahead** before going in person to any hospital location.
3. Don't go to your local emergency department for COVID-19 testing. The emergency department is only for those who need the most critical care. **

** If you have chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, a severe headache or other potentially life-threatening problems, go to the nearest emergency department or call 911.

For questions, call the Ohio Department of Health's 24/7 hotline at [833.427.5634](tel:833.427.5634) (833.4.ASK.ODH) or the Florida Department of Health's 24/7 hotline at [866.779.6121](tel:866.779.6121). Cleveland Clinic patients can also call [855.697.3750](tel:855.697.3750).

Need a COVID test?

Visit Summit County Public Health for the most up to date information on COVID-19 testing at <https://www.scph.org/covid/testing>

Akron General Drive Up Testing Options

W.O. Walker Building
10524 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44195
Testing hours: Daily, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
*Patients should enter the garage from E. 105th St.

Akron General Akron Health Center
676 South Broadway St. Akron, Ohio 44311
Testing hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Local Resources

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.
- **APS Connected Learning:** allows APS to work with students and families through an online learning environment. Goal is 100 percent connectivity for families. Call the APS Engagement Center at 330-761-2810 or visit <https://www.akronschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=409163&pageId=11798553> for more information on internet, hotspot, or device assistance for remote learning

Allergy Friendly Food Pantry

- 3732 Fishcreek Road #903 Stow, Ohio 44223
 - (330)603-7644, Caffi@allergyfriendlyfood.org
- Requires proof of gluten and other allergies. Must register in advance for pick up dates. This pantry allows a proxy letter for an aide or friend to pick up food.
- Serves Portage and Summit County has various locations of pick up.
- Wheelchair Accessible

Celebration Church Food Assistance

- 688 Dan Street Akron, Ohio 44310
- Gives out food every Wednesday at 7p.m.
- Allows aide, friend, or another family member to pick up items for person in need with a proxy letter. This letter must include name, address, and person designating to pick up the food. Also need to have a valid ID

City of Akron.

- **Water Supply Bureau** offers a variety of options to make payments and manage your account, including online bill payment; payment by mail, credit card, or debit card; and automatic bank draft. They encourage you to use our online digital tools and automated phone options. www.akronohio.gov/ubo or (330) 375-2554.
 - You can still pay your bill by mail to: Utilities Business Office, PO Box 3674, Akron, OH, 44309, or drop off at the exterior depository slot located at 146 S. High Street. You can also pay online or by phone. Payments by check over the phone at (330) 375-2554 or online at akronohio.gov/bill_pay will incur a \$0.70 service fee. Payment by credit card over the phone or online will incur a \$1.95 service fee.
- **Tax Payments:** Payments can be made online at 330-643-2632 or 330-643-2759, email at 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.

Metro RTA

- METRO's Fall 2020 Contingency Schedule will go into effect as of Sunday, August 23, 2020. The schedule change will bring 81-percent of bus service back on the road with the reintroduction of Sunday service and revised weekday and Saturday trips. For the most up to date transit schedule, visit <https://www.akronmetro.org/metro-specialized-schedules.aspx> or call 330-762-0341

Community Legal Aid

- HelpLine (800) 998-9454 to inquire about assistance regarding evictions, unemployment, employee rights, and other legal issues
- Ask a Lawyer Live series on Facebook - Every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., one of their attorneys will be sharing information about a legal topic relevant to our community during Covid-19. They will also be taking audience questions. Anyone with a Facebook account can attend the free events by simply visiting our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CommLegalAid at 5:00 on their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

In need of food resources?

- Call 855-560-0850 to connect with food pantries or hot meals near you
- The Foodbank is maintaining its regular business hours of M-F 8-4 during the COVID-19 crisis. Please call 330.535.6900 if you have any questions.

County Level Resources

The Summit County CARES program

- Eligible residents can receive up to four months of rent or mortgage payments, or up to \$5,000
 - The program expects to distribute the first round of payments in late July or early August.
- For questions, contact Akron Public Utility Customer Service at (330) 375-2554 or 3-1-1

Summit County Children Services

- 24-hour Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
 - Call (330) 434-KIDS (5437) to report your concerns

Ohio Edison

- **Electricity:** FirstEnergy will resume disconnects for non-payment no sooner than September 15, 2020, and will comply with any state orders to postpone these activities as long as necessary. 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

- To learn about payment assistance programs, contact your provider directly or visit https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/billingpayments/assistance_serviceprogram/low-income-program-availability.html

Dominion Energy

- **Gas / Electricity** - Customers 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 Internet Assist allows qualified households to sign up for low income internet assistance. To qualify, one or more members of a household must be a recipient of the National School Lunch Program, OR the Community Eligibility Provision of the NSLP, OR Supplemental Security Income
- Visit <https://www.spectrum.com/browse/content/spectrum-internet-assist> or call 1-855-707-7328

Summa Health

- Now offering FREE online screenings for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and FREE e-visits for the following conditions: COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Flu, Cold, Sinus Infection, Hay Fever, and Allergies. Platform availability: 24/7/365. Providers available 7am-8pm, 7 days a week. This service is only available in the state of Ohio. Contact via email at <https://www.summahealth.org/virtualvisit>
- For more questions, visit <https://www.summahealth.org/coronavirus> or call 234-867-6314

Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Ohio

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio has launched a Cyber Club to keep youth learning, engaged and enriched with academic success, healthy lifestyles and character development virtual programming while our Clubs are closed due to COVID 19.
- <https://www.bgcneo.org/cyber-club/>

National Alliance on Mental Illness – Summit County

- NAMI Connection Support Group for Peers. Every Tuesday & Wednesday Evening 7-8:30
 - Join by computer at <https://zoom.us/j/888504550?pwd=RXhxMXJxa3pZZUVOCi9BUepDSG0odzo9>
 - Meeting ID: 888 504 550 Password: 440286
- Family Support Group. Every Tuesday Evening 7-8:30
 - Join by computer at <https://zoom.us/j/817726547?pwd=VlpHTHFnbUJC0DVHVkpySoxOTXNuQT09>
 - Meeting ID: 817 726 547 Password: 381932

LGBTQ Legal Clinic

- 855-LGBT-LAW

- Intake Form : <https://www.equalityohio.org/legal-clinic/intake/>

State Level Resources

Department of Justice

- Per Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, **courts will remain open** to address emergency and time sensitive matters
- There will be **a reduction in need for jury pools** and public traffic as well as efforts to maximize the use of technology
- **Foreclosure actions are stayed for 60 days** to allow people to stay in their homes
- Those currently jailed who are in high-risk categories for COVID-19 will be released

JobsOhio

- Workforce Retention Loan Program
 - JobsOhio rapidly established the Workforce Retention Loan Program to provide qualifying JobsOhio client companies with financial support to help them to maintain employment levels during the COVID19 outbreak. Only JobsOhio existing client companies meeting certain defined criteria are eligible to participate, and JobsOhio has already notified the qualifying companies. The financing offered is an unsecured, forgivable, interest free loan allowing monthly draws to assist with payroll expense in support of employee retention. If the participating company retains its employees over a six-month period, the loan is eligible for forgiveness.
 - <https://www.jobsohio.com/jowrl-submission/>
- Six-Month Deferral of Payment on JobsOhio Loans
 - In light of the significant impact COVID-19 has on the economy and business, and in an effort to support its borrowers, JobsOhio will be offering a 6-month deferral of payment of loans (no principal and no interest) for the nearly 50 companies that have executed loan agreements with JobsOhio. These are businesses that have committed to a total of 9,150 jobs and \$521.7 million in payroll for the people of Ohio.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

- www.unemployment.ohio.gov
- PIN Reset Number: 866-962-4064
- **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.

- Call center hours have been expanded; **Monday-Friday 7am-7pm**, and **Saturday 9am-1pm**; capacity on the phone lines has been increased and callers are encouraged to stay on the line if you can
- Updates from recently passed House Bill 197:
 - Allows JFS to continue making payments to publicly funded child care providers during the COVID-19 emergency
- Governor DeWine has directed ODJFS to **create the Pandemic Child Care Center Licensure**
 - If child care facilities are asked to close (NOT YET ASKED TO CLOSE), JFS will immediately begin communicating with providers in the field and Governor DeWine will put together a panel to help create a system to disseminate that order and support to providers
- SNAP Benefits and accessibility
 - Previously, Ohio SNAP recipients could order groceries online at Giant Eagle, Walmart and some Kroger stores, but they had to pay inside the stores or at curbside. After receiving federal approval, ODJFS successfully tested online purchasing with Walmart and Amazon. While Ohio SNAP recipients can order food online from a variety of retailers, only Walmart and Amazon allow online purchasing with EBT cards. Individuals may choose to have groceries delivered, but federal rules still prohibit using SNAP benefits to pay for any delivery charges.
- Individuals may qualify for SNAP if their household's gross monthly income is at or under 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. Ohioans can apply at benefits.ohio.gov. Benefits can be used to buy most food products, with the exception of alcoholic beverages, vitamins and/or medicines, and hot food made to be eaten immediately, including prepared food from grocery stores and restaurants.
 - ODJFS has provided additional assistance to SNAP recipients during the pandemic:
 - Began issuing Pandemic EBT benefits for children who normally receive free or reduced price meals at school.
 - Issued supplemental SNAP payments to qualifying households in March, April and May and is preparing to issue them again in June.
 - Waived administrative verifications normally required at food banks, to streamline the process and limit person-to-person contact.
 - Extended SNAP recertification periods for March, April, May and June by six months.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

- drc.ohio.gov
- 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

- **From recently passed House Bill 197:**
 - State testing and report cards for the 2019-2020 school year have been waived
 - Allow all students who were on track to graduate, to do so
 - Exempt schools from food processing requirements to ensure children have access to nutrition even if they're school is shut down
 - Limiting EdChoice school buildings for 2020-2021 school year to be the same as those eligible for 2019-2020 school year
 - Allow schools to use distance learning to make up for missed days or hours of instruction caused by statewide K-12 closures
 - Allowing licensed special education providers to serve students through tele-health and other electronic communication methods
- education.ohio.gov
- Scholastic Classroom Magazine's Learn at Home is a free digital learning hub for pre-K through high school.
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
- Scholastic Classroom Magazine's child-friendly COVID-19 resource:
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/coronavirus.html>
- Ohio Imagination Library gives children up to age 5 one free book a month. Visit <https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org/enroll>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/> has a vast array of free courses, assistance, and daily schedules for parents to structure learning from home.
- The Ohio "At Home Learning" initiative will include a full schedule of daily television programming geared toward students in grades pre-K through 12th grade. This programming will be available on Ohio PBS television stations across the state starting in most areas on 3/30/2020.
- [Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov/LearnAtHome](https://www.covid19.ohio.gov/LearnAtHome) has a vast array of learning resources for all ages.
- Beginning Wednesday, March 25th, students and schools gained access to **free, live AP review lessons**, delivered by AP teachers from across the country. These daily lessons focus on reviewing the skills and concepts from the first 75% of the course. Hosted on the [AP YouTube channel](#), these lessons will be recorded and available on-demand so teachers and students can access them any time.

Ohio Department of Medicaid

- Medicaid **work requirement is NOT** in effect at this time. Those who receive Medicaid are not required to be working during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There will be an **expansion of telehealth services for both physical and mental health services during public emergencies** so that patients may contact their doctors from home rather than risk going into the office; patients do not need to be established with a doctor to see them via telehealth

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
- Can also find information at www.sba.gov/disaster
- disasterloan.sba.gov ; 1-800-659-2955

Public Utilities Commission

- 1-800-672-2231
- The Commission directs all public utilities under its jurisdiction to review their service disconnection policies, practices, and tariff provisions and to promptly seek any necessary approval to suspend otherwise applicable requirements that may impose a service continuity hardship on residential and non-residential customers or create unnecessary COVID-19 risks associated with social contact. For more information about service disconnection or reconnection, customers should call 1-800-672-2231.
- Ohio's electric, natural gas, water & wastewater distribution utilizes to suspend any in-person meter reading activities, and any other non-essential work; functions that are necessary to initiate new service or to ensure the continuity of service should be deemed essential and should continue during the state of emergency

National Domestic Violence Hotline

- If you feel unsafe while having to remain home, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. There is also a live chat available for victims unable to make a call at thehotline.org

Other Services

- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai introduced a new **broadband and telecom industry** measure on Friday called the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which is for the next 60 days, **asks that companies not terminate service for residential or small business customers, waive any late fees incurred due to the economic effects of the virus, and open access to public Wi-Fi hotspots** to “any American who needs them.” These are the companies that have taken the pledge in Ohio: AT&T, Cable One, CenturyLink, Charter, Cincinnati Bell, Continental, Comcast, Consolidated Communications, Cox Communications, Frontier, Little Miami, Mediacom, Oakwood, Ohio Rural Broadband Association, Ohio Telecom Association, Sprint, T-Mobile, TracFone Wireless, US Cellular, Van Lue, Verizon, and Windstream. **Contact your provider for more information.**

- The Federal Communications Commission granted Telecommunications Relay Service providers temporary waivers to better enable American Sign Language interpreters to work from home in order to maintain relay services

Employment Opportunities

Robert Half Temp Agency

- Remote work
- Customer service job
- Taking calls for unemployment
- Given a laptop to answer the calls via the laptop
- For more information you can e-mail Andrea Henderson at andrea.henderson@officeteam.com

