



STARK COUNTY SAFETY COUNCIL

member news

Volume 18 Issue 4 April 2020

starkcountysc.com

Ohio

Common Sense Initiative

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Carle Kuruc, Director

Ohio

Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation

Mike DeWine, Governor

Jon Husted, Lt. Governor and Director

March 26, 2020

The Ohio Department of Health issued a “Stay at Home” order for the state. The order is in effect until 11:59p.m. on April 6th, unless it is rescinded or modified. You can read the order here and find answers to frequently asked questions at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/stay-at-home-information/stay-at-home-order-frequently-asked-questions>

Please regularly visit CoronaVirus.Ohio.Gov/BusinessHelp for the most complete and up-to-date information about resources available for Ohio businesses, individuals, and families. Listed below are just a few.

BUSINESSES

Bureau of Workers’ Compensation Payment Deferral

Ohio’s Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) system is deferring insurance premium

installment payments for March, April and May until June 1, 2020. For more information, visit bwc.ohio.gov.

Health Insurance Premium Grace Period

All health insurers are required to provide the option of deferring premium payments, interest free, for up to 60 calendar days from each original premium due date. This means that employers can defer their premium payments for up to two months, giving them some relief on costs, while keeping their employees insured.

SharedWork Ohio

SharedWork Ohio allows business owners to cut employee pay between 10 percent and 50 percent and provides a portion of the benefit the employee would receive through unemployment to that employee. This program is designed to allow employers to reduce payroll costs during times of business decline, without having to lay off employees. For more information, visit jfs.ohio.gov.

Continued next page

Your Stark County Safety Council is hoping you are well and staying safe. We will be sharing any information we think is relevant to our current situation. If you have any questions or anything you need, please contact Connie Cerny connie@cantonchamber.org.

See page 3 for important info on the schedule of upcoming SCSC events.



Like us on Facebook-www.starkcountysc.com.

Stark County Safety Council Mission Statement: *To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking through leadership, innovation, facilitation, programming, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.*

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Transportation of Oversized Loads

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has modified the process for haulers carrying heavy loads of essential goods. Generally, the state requires haulers with loads classified as “oversized” to seek advanced permission from ODOT before they are permitted to travel in and through the state. Haulers carrying essential goods can download and print the permit at [Transportation.Ohio.gov](https://www.transportation.ohio.gov). The federal government has also cut red tape around obtaining or renewing Commercial Drivers’ Licenses and other licenses to prevent interruption of essential shipping. The Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Public Utilities Commission have adjusted their enforcement practices to avoid confusion.

Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan

Ohio small businesses and nonprofits are now eligible to apply for up to a \$2 million, low-interest loan through the SBA. Apply online at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>, which is recommended, or call (800) 659-2955 to have an application mailed to you.

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Utility Assistance

The Ohio Development Services Agency has secured approval from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to extend the Winter Crisis Program from March 31, 2020, to May 1, 2020, and to extend the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) from March 31, 2020, to June 1, 2020. The Winter Crisis Program helps income eligible Ohioans that are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected, or have less than a 25 percent supply of bulk fuel in their tank maintain their utility service. The HEAP provides eligible Ohioans assistance with their home energy bills through a one-time benefit applied di-

rectly to their utility bill or bulk fuel bill.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio also has also extended its winter reconnect order through May 1, 2020, which helps Ohioans reconnect or maintain electric and natural gas service during the heating season.

For customers enrolling in the Winter Crisis Program or the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) for the first time, you are NOT required to have a face-to-face appointment at this time. Your local Energy Assistance Provider will complete your application during a phone appointment

Visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply for assistance or to find contact information for your local Energy Assistance Provider.

Unemployment Compensation

Individuals who are quarantined during the emergency period are considered to be unemployed. This also applies to companies that determine they need to temporarily shut down. To apply for benefits, visit unemployment.ohio.gov anytime day or night, or call 1-877-644-6562 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ONLINE: P l e a s e v i s i t www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov for the most up-to-date information from the Ohio Department of Health. **PHONE:** For any questions you have about COVID-19, please call 1 (833) 4-ASK-ODH from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m (7 days/week).

SOCIAL MEDIA: @GovMikeDeWine
@LtGovHusted
@OHDeptofHealth

DAILY UPDATES: Governor DeWine is holding daily press briefings at 2:00 p.m. to deliver the most recent updates as well as give updated guidance for the state’s response. These press events are carried live at www.OhioChannel.org.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: UPCOMING SAFETY COUNCIL EVENTS FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, 2020

As per guidance for the Ohio BWC, the following events will be canceled or postponed to keep everyone safe due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID 19 situation. **The Ohio BWC will be awarding credits for the missed March, April and May meetings.**

Below is an update on the status of events as of this writing:

March 31—CEO Senior Management Breakfast—Alex D. Krassas Center—8-9:30 a.m.—Safer Roads—A County Engineer’s Perspective—Keith Bennett, PE, PS, Stark County Engineer—\$20.00—Registration www.starkcountysc.com—**POSTPONED new date TBD**

April 9th- Safety Council Luncheon—Alex D. Krassas Event Center—**CANCELED**

April 30—Lockout Tagout—at Canton Regional Chamber—\$10.00. **POSTPONED new date TBD**

May 14th—**Safety Council Luncheon**—Alex D. Krassas Event Center—**CANCELED**

May 19—SCSC Awards Banquet—Skyland Pines— **POSTPONED new date TBD**

OSHA 2020 Fall Stand Down—In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the utmost of precaution, OSHA has decided to postpone the 2020 Fall Stand Down to a time to be determined later in the summer. A link to the news release is below. The link to the news release is here:
<https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/trade/03272020>.

**For the latest info on COVID-19 visit www.cornavirus.gov
For the latest information on COVID-19s effect on BWC,**

ROBIN'S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative



Q: Can you explain the Temporary Guidance for Respirator Fit-Testing in Healthcare from OSHA?

A: OSHA has issued temporary enforcement guidance for respirator fit-testing in healthcare during COVID-19 outbreak. This guidance is aimed at ensuring healthcare workers have full access to needed N95 respiratory protection in light of anticipated shortages.

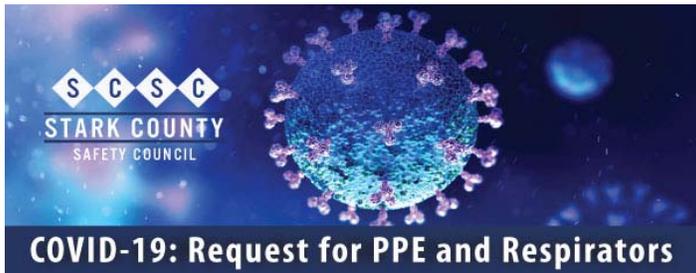
OSHA recommends that employers supply healthcare personnel who provide direct care to patients with known or suspected coronavirus with other respirators that provide equal or higher protection, such as N99 or N100 filtering facepieces, reusable elastomeric respirators with appropriate filters or cartridges, or powered air purifying respirators.

This temporary enforcement guidance recommends that healthcare employers change from a quantitative fit testing method to a qualitative testing method to preserve integrity of N95 respirators. Additionally, OSHA field offices have the discretion to not cite an employer for violations of the annual fit testing requirement as long as employers:

- Make a good faith effort to comply with the respiratory protection standard;
- Use only NIOSH-certified respirators;
- Implement strategies recommended by OSHA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for optimizing and prioritizing N95 respirators;
- Perform initial fit tests for each healthcare employee with the same model, style, and size respirator that the employee will be required to wear for protection from coronavirus;
- Tell employees that the employer is temporarily suspending the annual fit testing of N95 respirators to preserve the supply for use in situations where they are required to be worn;
- Explain to employees the importance of conducting a fit check after putting on the respirator to make sure they are getting an adequate seal;
- Conduct a fit test if they observe visual changes in an employee's physical condition that could affect respirator fit; and\
- Remind employees to notify management if the integrity or fit of their N95 respirator is compromised.

The temporary enforcement guidance is in effect beginning March 14, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice. ***Appropriate respiratory protection is required for all healthcare personnel providing direct care of these patients.*** For additional guidance, see *COVID-19 Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hcp-hospital-checklist.html>.





Safety Council Members - we need your help!

As Stark County prepares for a surge in COVID-19 cases, our hospitals and first responders are in urgent need of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to meet demand and provide necessary protection for our health care workers. The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce has received requests from Mercy Medical Center, Aultman and the Ohio BWC asking for the donation or sale of PPE from our business community.

PPE items include N95 masks, surgical masks, exam gloves, disposable gowns, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

If your business can help in any way, please contact the Ohio BWC, Aultman or Mercy Medical Center at the contact information below. Let's help protect our frontline workers together!

Orlando Goncalves
Aultman

Director of Distribution Services
330-575-1794

Orlando.goncalves@aultman.com

Brian Conklin
Mercy Medical Center

Supply Chain Leader

Brian.Conklin@cantonmercy.org

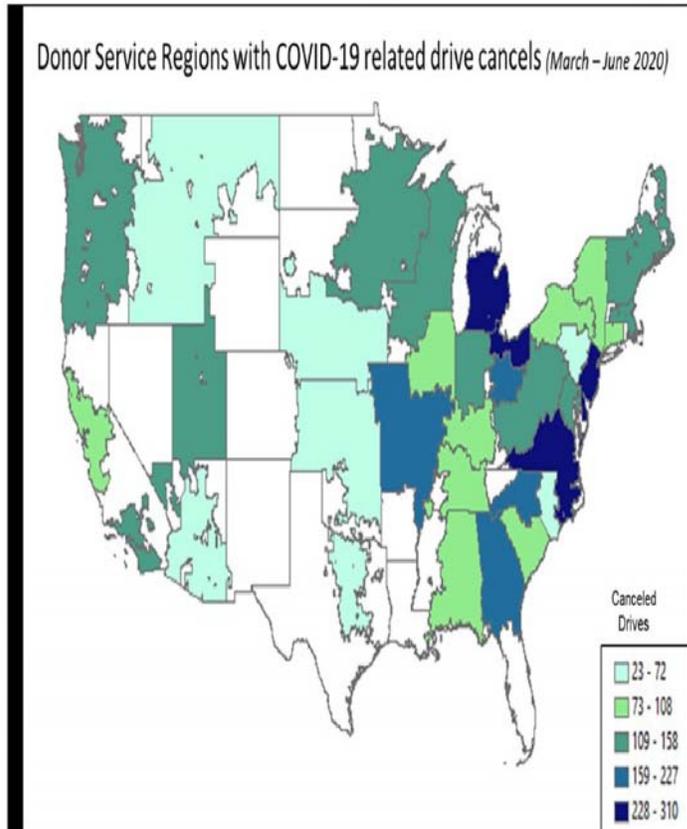
Severe Blood Shortage: Donors Urgently Needed. Please give now.



The American Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood or platelets to help maintain a sufficient blood supply and prevent shortages as concerns about the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019, COVID-19, rise in the U.S.

There is a real danger of the U.S. blood supply being depleted as a result of drive and donation cancellations (see below) across the country. As of Thursday, March 19, 2020, **4,500 blood drives have been cancelled nationwide, resulting in 150,000 fewer units of blood being collected.**

To donate go to:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>



FREE BWC SAFETY CLASSES

Free BWC safety classes available at North Canton Service office. See the [BWC catalog](#) for class descriptions.



BWC Safety Classes have been suspended until further notice.

www.bwclearningcenter.com to enroll.

Resources

- For the latest info on COVID-19 visit www.coronavirus.gov
- For the latest information on COVID-19s effect on BWC, email BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us.
- The BWC Library creates a monthly 'Safety Update' available at www.bwc.ohio.gov
- Occupational Health & Safety Administration—www.osha.gov

Upcoming Programs—Dates TBD

“Workplace Injuries”

Be prepared, have a plan. Protect your employees and protect your business. OSHA, VSSR, Workers' Comp, Intentional Torts

Speaker: Gust Callas, Esq. Black McCuskey, Souers, Arbaugh

“The Three Headed Monster: ADA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation”

Speaker: Michael J. Bogdan, Esq. Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A.

Spotlight Company:



Safety Council Officers & Contributing Members

Chairman: Randy Martin
(randym@beaverexcavating.com)

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Robin Watson (robin.w.1@bwc.state.oh.us) and
Deb Bailey (Deborah.b.1@bwc.state.oh.us)