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| **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 The order is in effect until 11:59p.m. on April 6th, unless it is rescinded or modified.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](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/DirectorsOrderStayAtHome.pdf) and find answers to frequently asked questions [here](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](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/resources-for-economic-support) for the most complete and up-to-date information about resources available for Ohio businesses, individuals, and families. Listed below are just a few.        **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](https://info.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](https://iop-odi-content.s3.amazonaws.com/static/Legal/Bulletins/Documents/2020-03.pdf) 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](http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/SharedWorkOhio/).    **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](http://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.      **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 directly 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](https://development.force.com/eap/) 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](https://unemployment.ohio.gov/PublicSelfServiceChoice.html) anytime day or night, or call 1-877-644-6562 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.    **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**     |  |  | | --- | --- | | **ONLINE:** | Please visit [www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov](http://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](https://twitter.com/GovMikeDeWine)  [@LtGovHusted](https://twitter.com/LtGovHusted)  [@OHDeptofHealth](https://twitter.com/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](http://www.ohiochannel.org/). | |