

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Talking Points for State of Ohio PIOs

Governor's News Conference – Warning to Non-Compliant Businesses, Insurance Grace Period, Senior Center/Adult Day Center

March 20, 2020

Status Update:

- The first death in Ohio from COVID-19 was a 76 year-old man who lived in Lucas County.
- There are currently 169 confirmed cases in 28 counties. Thirty-nine people are hospitalized.

Senior Centers/Adult Day Center

- Governor DeWine announced that he is ordering all of Ohio's senior day centers and adult day care services to stop providing care in congregate care settings. Congregate care settings are single locations where more than 10 people, including staff and providers, are in a confined space.
- The closure will be effective at the end of business on Monday, March 23, 3030.
- This order does not prohibit services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in residential settings. Rules that require day services and vocational habitation to be provided in community or work settings are being relaxed to recommend those services be provided in a person's residence

Insurance Grace Period

- The Ohio Department of Insurance is issuing an order for insurers in Ohio to allow employers to offer employees a grace period for insurance premiums.
- The grace period is for all health insurers and it must provide the option of deferring premium payments interest-free for up to 60 calendar days from the original premium due date.
- Health insurers must allow employers to continue covering employees even if the employee would otherwise become ineligible for insurance because of a decrease in the hours worked a week.

Warning to Non-Compliant Businesses

- Governor DeWine issued a warning today to business owners who are not complying with orders to take steps to protect employees from the spread of COVID-19. He warned that he would attempt to keep the economy moving, but that he would err on the side of protecting people if the reckless behavior did not stop.

For more information

- For the latest information on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.
- In addition, those with questions about COVID-19 can call the Ohio Department of Health hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY), connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line – text the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741, or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.