



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

## COVID-19 Update: K-12 Schools to Remain Closed, Minority Health Strike Force, Data Collection, Private Lab Testing

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 20, 2020

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(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton, MD, MPH, provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**K-12 SCHOOLS:**

Governor DeWine announced today that K-12 schools in Ohio will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year.

"We balanced many issues in arriving at this decision. In the end, I believe this is what is best to protect the health of our children, our teachers, and our administrators," said Governor DeWine. "While our buildings are closed, we know that students continue to learn in new and innovative ways. I thank all of our teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents for all they have done and will continue to do in these challenging times."

At this time, no decisions have been made regarding whether or not schools will reopen in the fall.

**MINORITY HEALTH STRIKE FORCE:**

Because COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting minority groups in Ohio and across the country, Governor DeWine announced today that he has formed a new Minority Health Strike Force.

According to data from the Ohio Department of Health, 21 percent of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Ohio are African American, although they only make up approximately 14 percent of Ohio's population.

"We must recognize that there are many Ohioans who have an increased risk of being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and we must do everything we can to protect all Ohioans from this pandemic," said Governor DeWine.

A list of individuals serving on the Minority Health Strike Force can be found at the end of this document.

### **NURSING HOME/HOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION:**

In addition to comprehensive data already published on [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov), Governor DeWine announced today that he has directed the Ohio Department of Health to collect more specific information regarding cases of COVID-19 in Ohio nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals.

In regard to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, this data will include COVID-19 cases broken down by the number of residents and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 at nursing homes and assisted living facilities listed by facility and county. Data will be posted to [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) every Wednesday.

While balancing transparency and individual privacy rights, Ohio will also begin reporting aggregate death data for nursing homes and assisted living facilities at the county level. Because Ohio's reporting module must be modified to accurately collect this information, this data will likely begin to be reported next week.

Additionally, because Ohioans are concerned about how COVID-19 is impacting hospitals and other healthcare facilities, Governor DeWine directed the Department of Health to modify the Ohio Disease Reporting System to accurately collect case information for direct care providers at hospitals who have tested positive for COVID-19. The data, which will be available soon on [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov), will be listed by each hospital.

### **PRIVATE LAB TESTING:**

The Ohio Department of Health had previously issued an order prohibiting hospitals from sending COVID-19 testing samples to private labs due to slow turnaround time.

Governor DeWine announced today that LabCorp and Quest currently have no backlog of samples and have added more testing capacity. In response to the private laboratories' improved turnaround times, the Ohio Department of Health will again allow hospitals to utilize commercial laboratories in addition to hospital laboratories performing COVID-19 testing.

The Ohio Department of Health will continue to monitor the turnaround times for all laboratories including commercial laboratories to make sure those who have been tested get results as quickly as possible.

**CURRENT OHIO DATA:**

There are 12,919 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 509 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 2,653 people have been hospitalized, including 798 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

Video of today's full update, including versions with foreign language closed captioning, can be viewed on the [Ohio Channel's YouTube page](#).

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

## Protecting Against COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force

*Included below is the member of the Minority Health Strike Force who is charged with assisting those who may be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Updated member list as of April 20, 2020.*

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Alisha Nelson, MBA	Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Andrew Jackson	Elson International, Inc., Owner and CEO
Angela C. Dawson, MS, MRC, LPC	Ohio Commission on Minority Health, Executive Director
Bishop Timothy J. Clarke	First Church, Senior Pastor
Breann Almos	Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Former Senator Charleta B. Tavares	PrimaryOne Health, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Smitherman	City of Cincinnati, Vice Mayor
Congresswoman Joyce Beatty	U.S. House of Representatives, Ohio 3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District
Cora Munoz, Ph.D, RN	Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
David Ellsworth	Ohio Department of Health
Dawn Thomas	Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Deena J. Chisholm, Ph.D	Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice at the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Director
Director Ursel McElroy	Ohio Department of Aging
Donna James	Lardon & Associates, Managing Director - Center for Healthy Families, Founder

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

Dr. O'dell M. Owens, MD, MPH	Interact for Health, President and CEO
Dr. Anthony Armstrong, MD	Ohio State Medical Association, President
Representative Emilia Strong Sykes	Ohio House of Representatives, Minority Leader, 34 <sup>th</sup> District
Guadalupe A. Velasquez	Welcome City, Managing Director
Mayor Jamael Tito Brown	City of Youngstown
Jamie Carmichael	Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Johnnie Allen	Ohio Department of Health
Joseph Hill	Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
June Taylor	Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Chief, Performance and Strategy
Lilleana Cavanaugh	Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, Executive Director
Melba Moore, Ph.D., MS, CPHA	City of Cincinnati, Health Commissioner
Michael B. Colman	Ice Miller Legal Counsel, Partner-in-Charge of Government Law
Michele Reynolds	Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, Director
Pastor John Coats	Columbus NAACP, 2nd Vice President
Reina Sims	Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Renee Mahaffey Harris	Closing The Health Gap, President and CEO
Renee Tolliver	Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Robert Jennings	National Public Health Information Coalition, Executive Director
Ronald Todd	Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Stephen Massey	RecoveryOhio Advisory Council Member
Thomas Banks	IAP Government Services Group, President and CEO

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Tif Huber	Ohio Department of Health
Tracee Garrett	Global Insight Productions, President and CEO
Yaves Ellis	Sling Shot Media Group, Owner - Radio One, Director of Public Affairs

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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 by texting 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.

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 **Ohio** | Department of Health

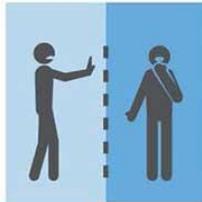
Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME



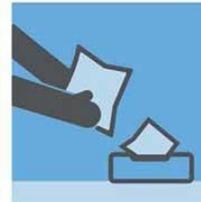
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP AND EAT WELL-BALANCED MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH A CLEAN TOWEL OR AIR DRY YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)