



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Lori Criss, *Director*

March 27, 2020

>>> Governor DeWine Signs Coronavirus Relief Bill

Earlier today, Governor DeWine signed legislation aimed at providing emergency relief for Ohioans as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Am. Sub. H.B. 197 includes several measures to provide flexibility to Ohio's families, schools, businesses, and communities. The relief measures include, among other things, the following:

- Extends absentee voting by mail to April 28
- Allows Ohio's Medicaid Director to classify certain Medicaid providers as COVID-19 community providers and request additional funds through Dec. 1
- Prohibits public water disconnections during the pandemic
- Waives the K-12 standardized testing and school report cards for the 2019-2020 school year
- Allows recent nursing graduates to obtain a temporary license to practice prior to passing the licensure examination
- Extends the tax filing deadline to July 15th
- Waives the first week waiting period for unemployment benefits
- Allows expired driver's licenses and vehicle registration to renew by December 1st without penalty



A more detailed summary of the items in the bill can be found [HERE](#).

>>> BH Telehealth Training Webinars – April 1-2

The Ohio Department of Medicaid and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will hold two identical webinar trainings on Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2 to provide technical assistance regarding the delivery of behavioral health services via telehealth. Both trainings will cover identical content and will be recorded and posted to the [BH.Medicaid.Ohio.gov](https://www.bh.medicaid.ohio.gov) website along with the training slides. Two identical sessions are being offered to allow maximum participation of interested stakeholders and sufficient time for questions and discussion. **After registering for either webinar, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. PLEASE NOTE: Each session is limited to 500 participants. In order to make sure all interested stakeholders can participate, ODM and OhioMHAS ask stakeholders to register for only one session.**

April 1 | Noon-2 p.m. [REGISTER](#)

April 2 | 10 a.m.-Noon [REGISTER](#)

In the interim, please familiarize yourselves with behavioral health telehealth resources posted at [BH.Medicaid.Ohio.gov](https://www.bh.medicaid.ohio.gov), under "Special Considerations for COVID-19 Emergency."

>>> #MentalHealthMonday

Every day at 2 p.m., we can count on Gov. Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, and Dr. Amy Acton addressing the state with the latest COVID-19 updates. Now, you can also turn to OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss on **Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.**, when she will release a weekly video message to all Ohioans on staying mentally healthy

during this time. Find her message online at <http://facebook.com/ohiomhas> or <http://twitter.com/ohiomhas> starting Monday, March 30. Look for, follow, and share the hashtag #MentalHealthMonday.

>>> Guidance for Specialty Docket Programs

The Supreme Court of Ohio has compiled a variety of resources offering guidance to local court systems, including [specialty docket programs](#), to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Click [HERE](#) to view court-specific resources.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov.

In the News

- 3.26.20 | *WEWS-TV* [Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board still taking appointments, new clients](#)
- 3.26.20 | *WTVG-TV* [Addiction recovery a delicate balance during coronavirus](#)
- 3.26.20 | *WHIZ-TV* [How is COVID-19 affecting your mental health](#)
- 3.25.20 | *Patch.com* [Ohio mental health counselors see patients online](#)
- 3.25.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Alcoholics, Narcotics Anonymous hold virtual meetings to connect people despite pandemic](#)
- 3.25.20 | *WFMJ-TV* [Guarding your child's mental wellness during the coronavirus crisis](#)

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