

COVID-19 Business Resource and Assistance Coordination Call

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

11:00 AM

Call Notes

- The purpose of this weekly coordination call is to share COVID-19 information, news, and resources with Union County's business community.
- Links to the programs and resourced discussed during the call are available on the COVID-19 Business Resource Portal: <https://www.growunioncountyohio.com/covid>.

Small Business Administration

Jerome Jones, Lender Relations Specialist

- The SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program allows eligible small businesses and non-profits to apply for low-interest loans of up to \$2 million.
- Terms: 3.75% for businesses and 2.75% for non-profits; depending on qualifications. 30-year repayment period.
- Once a complete application is submitted it will take approximately 30-35 days for dispersal of funds. There are no payments due for 11 months. Successful applicants will have six months to accept the loan.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply online: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/>.

Union County Health Department

Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner

- Union County has two confirmed cases of COVID-19 and one additional probable case. Testing is very limited and is reserved for those who are critically ill or healthcare workers who are ill.
- Employers are urged not to make testing a condition of employees returning to work or being approved for sick leave. Any employee that is sick needs to be sent home.
- Regarding the Stay-at-Home Order, the Health Department cannot determine which businesses are essential. Employers must make their own decisions and should answer two questions: is the business truly essential, and if so, is it safe to be open? Employers should consult the text of the Governor's Order and their legal counsel. For businesses that close, employees may maintain critical inventory or physical plant, but no clients/customers are permitted. Employees should be instructed to take precautions such as practicing physical distancing, regular cleaning, and staying at home if sick.
- Local law enforcement is responsible for enforcing the Stay-at-Home Order, and the Health Department is responsible for investigating complaints.

Union County Emergency Management Agency

Brad Gilbert, Director

- The Union County EMA is a County agency tasked with planning, training, and conducting exercises to prepare the community for disasters. Once a disaster occurs, the EMA works to promote communication, collaboration, and information sharing among various departments and first responder agencies.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened two weeks ago. Approximately 70 of Ohio's 88 counties have opened their EOCs. The EOC is staffed by representatives of the Union County Health Department, fire/EMS, law enforcement, and EMA.
- The greatest need right now is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – such as gloves, masks, and gowns. Any business able to donate these items can contact the EMA.

Union County

Steve Stolte, County Commissioner

- The Union County Commissioners applauds the collaboration that is occurring throughout the community. They also sympathize with businesses and residents enduring hardships because of the pandemic. Union County government remains functional. Many offices have implemented limited office hours and have instructed employees to work from home. Anyone who needs to conduct in-person business with a county office is urged to call ahead first.

City of Marysville

Terry Emery, City Manager

- The City encourages residents to follow its social media outlets for the latest updates. The City continues to operate essential services such as police, fire, EMS, water and wastewater, and waste collection. City-owned buildings are closed to the public and some employees are working from home. Parks are open but restrooms and playgrounds are closed.
- The City has also implemented live streaming of City Council meetings. The City Council meeting on April 13th has been canceled and all other City board and commission meetings are postponed but will be reconvened if urgent matters warrant.
- The income tax filing deadline has been postponed until July 15th. No penalties or interest will be accrued during this time. Residents wishing to file their income taxes are encouraged to use the drop-box at City Hall. Additionally, utility disconnections have been suspended.

Village of Plain City

Nathan Cahall, Village Administrator

- The Village declared an emergency last week. Village offices are closed to the public but operational as the village has prioritized essential operations and public health and safety during the pandemic.
- Utility disconnections have been postponed. All board and commission meetings are canceled. The income tax filing deadline is based on the State's schedule, so the April 15th deadline may change depending on pending action from the Ohio Legislature.

Union County-Marysville Economic Development

Eric Phillips, Development Director

The COVID-19 Business Resource and Assistance Coordination Call will occur every Wednesday at 11:00 AM. Those who have not registered are encouraged to email ephillips@unioncounty.org to be added to the list.

The Union County COVID-19 Impact Business Survey was recently completed with over 60 employers responding. The data gleaned from the survey will help plan local business programs and resources. The survey results will be emailed following this call.

The Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, and Convention & Visitors Bureau office is closed to the public and staff is working from home. They have been communicating available business resources and COVID-19 updates to the community.

A new COVID-19 business resource portal has been launched: <https://www.growunioncountyohio.com/covid>. This portal will be updated frequently, and businesses are urged to visit it for a comprehensive listing of available resources.

A special COVID-19 update email will be sent every Friday afternoon. Please email twoodruff@unioncounty.org if you would like to be added to the email list.

The Chamber and CVB have launched a new Facebook group where business owners can share business updates, specials, etc.: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/unioncountystrong>.

The CVB has published a list of local restaurants that have remained open to offer curbside, delivery, or carryout service during the pandemic: <https://www.visitunioncountyohio.org/restaurants-special-options>.

OhioMeansJobs - Union County

Stacia Rosebrook, Workforce Supervisor

The State has expanded the flexibility of the unemployment programs. It has shortened the waiting period for benefits, waived penalties for late payments, and is allowing employees who have lost employment due to the pandemic to seek unemployment benefits. Additional disaster-based unemployment assistance may be coming soon from the State, including potential eligibility for home-based employees.

Employers and residents seeking unemployment benefits are encouraged to visit the State's website: <https://unemployment.ohio.gov/>. The State has expanded its office hours to 7:00 – 7:00 PM Monday through Friday. Additional staff has been added to the local Ohio Means Jobs – Union County office, too, although many employees are now working from home. Anyone needing assistance are urged to call ahead first.

Ohio Development Services Agency

Scott Brock, Union County CIC

The Ohio DSA has been in contact with businesses across the state to understand specific needs and formulate an impactful response. Anyone who has specific ideas are encouraged to contact Eric Phillips so he may pass along to DSA.

One Columbus

Patty Huddle, SVP of Economic Development

One Columbus is working with businesses and communities to uncover their specific needs and is acting as a point of information consolidation. They are monitoring new programs and resources and will work directly through local networks to disseminate information.

Participants Comments/Updates

The Union County Foundation and the United Way of Union County are soliciting donations for the Union County Emergency Response Fund. Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible contribution can contact the Union County Foundation at 937-642-9618.

Next call – Wednesday, April 1, 2020 @ 11:00 a.m.