



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COVID-19 Update: Testing Priority, Ohio BMVs

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

TESTING UPDATE:

Governor DeWine today provided an update on Ohio's plan for increased COVID-19 testing.

A new partnership announced last week between the state of Ohio, Thermo Fisher, and ROE Dental Scientific will allow for a steady supply of testing reagent and swabs. With Ohio's new increased testing capacity, Ohio will prioritize testing in the following categories:

Priority 1	<p>Ohioans with symptoms who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitalized. • Healthcare workers. This includes behavioral health providers, home health workers, nursing facility and assisted living employees, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), housekeepers and others who work in healthcare and congregate living settings.*
Priority 2	<p>Ohioans with symptoms who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of long-term care/congregate living settings. • First responders/public health workers/critical infrastructure workers. • 65 and older. • Living with underlying conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Consideration should be given for testing racial and ethnic minorities with underlying illness, as they are at increased risk for COVID-19 and more severe illness. <p>Ohioans without symptoms who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents or staff directly exposed during an outbreak in long-term care/congregate living settings. <p>Other Ohioans who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated by public health officials to evaluate/manage community outbreaks (such as in workplaces, other large gatherings).
Priority 3	<p>Ohioans with and without symptoms who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving essential surgeries/procedures, including those that were reassessed after a delay. • Receiving other medically necessary procedures not requiring an overnight stay/inpatient hospital admission, as defined by their providers' process for COVID-19 testing.

*Congregate living settings are those where more than six people live and where there is a propensity for rapid person-to-person spread of infectious disease. (Some examples are assisted living/nursing centers; Ohio Veterans Homes; residential facilities for mental health/substance use treatment; psychiatric hospitals/group homes; centers/facilities/group homes for people with intellectual disabilities; homeless and domestic violence shelters; youth detention centers; prisons; and jails.)

"It's important to remember, that testing is only one response to this virus. It allows us to quickly identify individuals infected with COVID-19, promptly isolate them, and determine who they've been in close contact with to minimize the spread," said Governor DeWine. "Increased testing capacity does not replace infection control and prevention practices such as social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands, and sanitizing high-touch surfaces."

OHIO BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES REOPENING PLAN:

Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced today that, although opening dates for individual locations have not yet been finalized, Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) deputy registrars around the state may begin reopening as early as later this month.

Upon reopening, every deputy registrar will offer online the Ohio BMV's Get In Line, Online program that was [launched by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted as a pilot project last year](#). A partnership between InnovateOhio and the Ohio BMV has been expanding the project to locations statewide. There are currently 48 deputy registrars that had been offering Get in Line, Online, and all other locations that had not yet offered the service will offer it to customers upon reopening.

"So far, this system has saved Ohioans nearly 9,000 hours of wait time," said Lt. Governor Husted. "In order to reduce lines and the time each Ohioan has to physically spend in the BMV, we are working with InnovateOhio to expand the program throughout the state by the end of May so that every open BMV will offer this service."

In preparation for reopening, deputy registrars are also reactivating and hiring staff, making accommodations to their facilities to ensure social distancing, and ensuring that safety measures are in place, such as cough/sneeze shields, at customer-facing workstations.

CURRENT OHIO DATA:

There are 20,474 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 1,090 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 3,809 people have been hospitalized, including 1,090 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting 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 or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.