



Columbus, OH (April 27, 2020) – On behalf of our six organizations, and the thousands of Ohio businesses they collectively represent, the following statement was released today regarding the plan for Ohio’s economy to begin reopening May 1, 2020.

“Today’s announcement on the reopening strategies of Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted are responsible first steps to Ohio getting back to business. For many businesses in Ohio, the staged reopening of commerce beginning May 1 through May 12 is a relief. We appreciate that the DeWine Administration listened to the business community as well as relevant experts in establishing the required safety protocols.

“It is vitally important to move forward and reopen safely. Ohio employers truly care about and rely on a healthy workforce. Just as important is a consumer base that feels they are safe when conducting business. Building this confidence in both the workforce and those consumers supporting our industries will be difficult, but companies are ready to take on the responsibility both carefully and methodically. The businesses of Ohio are prepared for and capable of conducting the five safety protocols. Of the businesses remaining open during the COVID-19 crisis, many have already successfully implemented most, if not all, of these protocols.

“With roughly seventeen to twenty-two percent of Ohio’s workforce filing for unemployment, Ohio businesses, especially many smaller entities, and their employees are really hurting during this pandemic crisis. As we approach the month of May, many key industries will remain closed, fighting for their very survival and we cannot leave them behind. We appreciate the open dialogue with Ohio’s leaders as we arrived at this point and certainly look forward to continuing to work to bring our state’s economy back to full force as soon as possible.”



“In the 42 days since Governor DeWine properly ordered the delay of elective procedures, thousands of joint replacements, colonoscopies, mammograms, infusion therapies, and other health services were safely delayed. But it is time for many of those patients to proceed with their needed health care services. Ohio Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to continue working with Governor DeWine and his administration on Ohio’s efforts to combat COVID-19. This pandemic presented many challenges to our state demanding unique and difficult decisions for hospitals and our communities. We commend the governor and his administration for collaborating with the health care community to resume elective surgeries and procedures. Ohio hospitals are safe places to receive care. No one should hesitate to present to their community hospital for services that are needed. With support and guidance from state and federal agencies we are committed to charting a path to resume services in Ohio that ensures the health and safety of Ohioans and caregivers.”

**- Mike Abrams, President and CEO, Ohio Hospital Association.**



“The Ohio Township Association (OTA) appreciates Governor DeWine’s measured response and decision to begin opening Ohio on May 1st. The OTA looks forward to continued collaboration on addressing the needs of Ohio townships and those they serve.

The OTA is grateful for the leadership of the DeWine Administration during this difficult time. Townships, like many other sectors, have been immediately impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and will continue to deal with its ongoing effects through disruptions to operations, loss of revenue, and other issues. However, townships have effectively adapted their policies to maintain safe work environments and will continue to meet the needs of their communities, while ensuring public health.”

- **The Ohio Township Association**



“The Ohio Municipal League (OML) would like to thank Governor Mike DeWine for the prudent steps being taken to reopen Ohio’s economy. The decisions being made by the Governor reflect the difficult choices in balancing the potential health consequences of reengaging Ohio’s economy with the realities that the prolonged interruption of economic activity will have on our state and our communities.

We appreciate the Governor and administration officials for their continued communication with Ohio’s municipal leaders and for the partnership in addressing the challenges facing those on our front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to continuing to work with the administration on the significant challenges to come. The partnership between the state and our municipalities will be even more important as we both work to protect the health of the 8.5 million Ohioans who call a municipality home and recover from the economic consequences that will greatly challenge the ability of municipalities to deliver critical services.”

- **The Ohio Municipal League**



"Ohioans continue to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and make important sacrifices every day to protect themselves and their communities. Gov. Mike DeWine's announcement today reflects these dual threats with a measured and thoughtful plan for how we can begin reopening our economy while still prioritizing public health.

While the threat of the coronavirus is still very real, we believe that progress has been made by expanding testing and contact tracing, increasing access to PPE, and providing clear guidance on face coverings, mass gatherings, and congregate settings such as nursing homes.

As a bipartisan coalition of mayors from cities across Ohio, we know we are all in this together, which is why we stand by and will continue to work with Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, and Public Health Director Amy Acton during these trying times."

- **Ohio Mayors Alliance Board: Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn, Kettering Mayor Don Patterson, Lancaster Mayor David Scheffler, and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley.**



"CCA O welcomes Gov. DeWine's plan to gradually reopen Ohio's economy. The governor's plan is a balanced, phased-in approach that allows certain business activities to resume while ensuring necessary safeguards are in place to protect employees and customers. We agree with the governor that supporting our business community and protecting public health are not mutually exclusive goals.

"COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for county government. Counties are fortunate to have a strong partner in Gov. DeWine, and that partnership will remain crucial as counties continue to battle the significant health and economic challenges brought on by this pandemic."

- **Carl Davis, CCA O President and Monroe County Commissioner**



“Throughout this crisis, the OBL and its 170-plus member banks have been open for business to help individuals and businesses impacted by this health crisis. We applaud the work the Administration is doing to safely reopen our state’s economy. We appreciate the transparency and continuing dialogue between the Administration, the Ohio Bankers League and the banking industry during the extraordinary difficulties we face.”

- **Paul Thompson, Chairman, Ohio Bankers League**



**OHIO CREDIT  
UNION LEAGUE**

“The Ohio Credit Union League appreciates the steady, consistent, and inclusive leadership provided by Governor Mike DeWine and his Administration throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The Administration’s phase-in plan to reopen the economy responsibly balances the state’s economic needs while prioritizing the health and safety of all Ohioans.”

- **Paul Mercer, President, Ohio Credit Union League President Paul Mercer**



“We appreciate [Governor DeWine’s] strong leadership and dedication during this unprecedented time. As an industry that accounts for nearly 15 percent of Ohio’s gross domestic product, we share [Governor DeWine’s] concern and earnest effort to balance the health and safety of our communities while simultaneously seeking solutions to keep Ohio’s economy vibrant.”

- **Scott Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Ohio REALTORS**



“I think these are the logical first steps in opening Ohio’s economy and getting individuals back to work. OAA Members have been working diligently with residents to find programs and plans to assist with rent payments and needs of communities. However, the ability for individuals to return to work is irreplaceable.

Our members have spent countless hours working with residents in every facet of this pandemic. From cleaning communities, to personal safety measures to helping with a variety of issues that have come about as a result of health issues, unemployment or something else. We applaud Governor DeWine for his efforts in the COVID-19 pandemic thus far and in his plan to reopen Ohio.”

- **Laura Swanson, Executive Director, Ohio Apartment Association**

# COLUMBUS<sup>★</sup> PARTNERSHIP

“The Columbus Partnership offers our support of Governor DeWine’s plan to reopen many businesses in the State of Ohio. From the beginning, Ohio has been a leader in its response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, serving as a model for the entire nation. The Columbus Partnership looks forward to continuing to work together with Governor DeWine and leaders across the state to protect both health and the economy.”

- **The Columbus Partnership**



“The members of the Ohio Grocers Association, representing grocers of all sizes, food wholesalers, manufacturers and distributors, have been actively supporting the State’s efforts to flatten the curve during this COVID-19 pandemic as essential businesses. Our members have instituted many practices, including social distancing, additional cleaning protocols, designated hours for higher risk customers, employee wellness policies and so much more to keep our employees and our customers safe as they shop to feed their families. We applaud Governor DeWine as he institutes continued critical safety measures in our stores as well as other establishments as they begin to open. We will continue to keep the health and safety of our teams and our communities at the top of our priority list.”

- **Ohio Grocers Association**



“We support the efforts of Governor Mike DeWine and his team to formulate the Responsible RestartOhio plan which allows us to execute a safe, measured and responsible return to office spaces and work places.

This plan recognizes the importance of the public’s comfort in knowing that Ohio businesses are doing everything possible to protect the health and safety of employees and those who are receiving services from them.

AAA’s primary concern is the safety and well-being of its employees and nearly two and a half million AAA members in the state of Ohio who depend on our Membership, Travel and Insurance retail and general office operations for products and services. Our teams have been diligently following state guidelines through this pandemic as we continue to provide Emergency Roadside Assistance, and club-owned and auto repair services to those who need them during this COVID-19 pandemic.

We share the Governor’s interest in keeping everyone safe and healthy – as we are #In This Together.”

- **Ohio Conference of AAA Clubs**



“Safety is a core value for Marathon Petroleum Corporation. We commend Gov. DeWine’s initiatives to promote the safety and wellbeing of all Ohioans and, in particular, his early and decisive action to limit the spread of the coronavirus and to minimize the overall impact of this pandemic. As an Ohio-based company, Marathon Petroleum is honored to work with Gov. DeWine to support a strategic and safe re-opening of the state.”

- **Marathon Petroleum Corporation**