
Dear Members and Friends,

The Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce continues to receive valuable information that is important for our members and friends to receive regarding the impact of COVID-19. Today we have three updates from: the Lt. Governor's office, BWC and a hand sanitizer resource.

First, there are important updates regarding ODJFS Return To Work Guidelines from the Lt. Governor's office:

During this unprecedented time, many employers have been forced to lay off employees, in response to stay-at-home orders, social distancing restrictions, lack of available work, and concerns about contracting COVID-19. In response, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provided expanded unemployment benefits to impacted individuals. The CARES Act provides additional weekly supplement payments, additional weeks of benefits, and a new program, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, for those who traditionally have not qualified for unemployment benefits.

As employers begin reopening their doors to a "new normal," in compliance with the [Responsible RestartOhio](#) requirements, many employees are expected to return to their previous employment. Ohio law prohibits individuals from receiving unemployment benefits if they refuse to accept offers of suitable work, or quit work, without good cause.

If your members have employees who refuse to return to work or quit work, it's important that they let the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) know so we can make accurate eligibility determinations. To report these occurrences, please visit unemployment.ohio.gov/employer and click on "Return to Work Guidelines." This will take you to a web page to report these employees for investigation by ODJFS.

Next week, the full policy that ODJFS will use to determine individuals' continued eligibility for unemployment benefits after refusing to return to work will be posted here: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/UIPolicy/index.stm>. This policy will underscore the presumption that if an individual's job is available for them to work again, they will not be eligible for unemployment benefits. If you have any questions, please contact Monica Blasdel, Northeast Regional Liaison, Lt. Governor Joh Husted, Email: monica.blasdel@governor.ohio.gov

Second, the BWC has made some changes for payroll for the 2019 policy year for the Ohio Business Community. For instance, if an employer had someone working in the shop but now they are working from home, their payroll can be reported under 8871, but they have to contact the BWC to make that happen. Or for employers that have sent employees home, and they are paying them their wage, but they aren't working, that payroll won't need to be reported. For more detailed information, [Click Here](#)

Lastly, we have an additional resource for hand sanitizer whose parent company is located here in Cleveland. The sister company is in Albany Georgia and I confirmed that they do ship gallons of hand sanitizer that is available. Please [Click Here](#) for contact information. Thank you to Chamber member Kristina Zeleznik for this additional PPE resource. As a reminder, [click here](#) or a comprehensive resource list from the Lake County Health District of PPE resources.

If there is any other resources you need, do not hesitate to contact me.

Karen Tercek, President/CEO
Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce
www.wwcchamber.com



This email was sent on behalf of Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce by GrowthZone, 4837 County Road 77, Nisswa, MN 56468. To unsubscribe [click here](#). If you have questions or comments concerning this email or GrowthZone services in general, please contact us by email at support@growthzone.com.