I would like to extend a “warm” Spring welcome to this edition of the licensure board’s eNewsletter. We have important updates to share regarding the professions, so please be sure the review this edition’s information. Updates of interest include licensure renewal and continuing education requirements. We also have information about the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). We have included information for your knowledge regarding how the Federal “No Surprises Act” effects you in your practice while also protecting consumers from receiving a surprise bill from a licensee or health care facility. We continue to monitor and await, along with many of you, the FDA’s proposed regulations for Over-the-Counter hearing aids and how it will impact the Board’s laws and rules once finalized. As a reminder, this category of hearing aids are not finalized for use or purchase at this time.

I hope everyone is continuing to stay safe as we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of our licensees who have spent the past two years providing your professional services to patients, clients, and students during this national emergency. We wish everyone's continued safety and health as we meet the communicative needs of Ohio’s consumers.

Sincerely yours,
Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A, FAAA, Board Certified in Audiology
Board President
March 15, 2022

Message from the Executive Director

I would like to welcome everyone to this edition of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board’s eNewsletter. We have important updates and information inside this edition about the continuing education audits, No Surprise Act, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, Food and Drug Administration’s proposed rules on Over-the-Counter hearing aids, licensure renewal, duty to report, professional experience requirements for conditional speech-language pathologists,

(Continued on next page)
Message from the Executive Director
(continued from page 1)

and other licensure updates. We continue to post regular updates on our website as well as on our Facebook page, about Ohio’s preparedness to the COVID-19 pandemic. You will find this to be one of the best ways to stay informed and access resources.

If you have a question, issue, or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us. We invite you to visit our homepage at www.shp.ohio.gov, and also visit us on Facebook to stay updated throughout the year.

If you recently contacted the Board for services or information, please take a moment to complete our customer service survey and let us know your opinion about that experience.

Best Regards,
Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.
Executive Director
ASLP-IC Commission Holds 1st Meeting

On July 1, 2021, Governor Mike DeWine signed into law HB252, which enacted the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), co-sponsored by Reps. Andrea White (House District 41, Kettering) and Phil Plummer (House District 40, Dayton). Ohio became the fourteenth state to pass the ASLP-IC. The ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact which allows audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. The provisions and requirements for Ohio’s ASLP-IC are specified under Ohio Revised Code section 4753.17. There are presently fifteen states that have passed the ASLP-IC: Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming. For practitioners who work in Ohio and also across state lines in neighboring states such as Kentucky or West Virginia, the ASLP-IC will address the increased demand to provide/receive audiology and speech-language pathology services and authorizes in-person and telepractice service delivery to patients/clients.

The main question being raised now is when will practitioners be able to apply under the ASLP-IC. The ASLP-IC Commission held its first meeting of delegates on January 12-13, 2022. Each state licensure board that is part of the compact appointed one audiologist and one speech-language pathologist to serve on the commission. The Ohio licensure board selected Tammy Brown, M.A., CCC-A, Board Certified in Audiology, FAAA as the audiology delegate and Barbara Prakup, Ph.D., CCC-SLP as the speech-language pathology delegate. At the first meeting, the Commission’s delegates identified the scope of work that must be completed in order to set up the commission. The scope of work includes appointing a secretariat to assist with administrative functions, determine a database system to process applications, and adopt rules and procedures. It will take at least a year or more before the Commission is ready to process applications.

If you are interested in learning more about the ASLP-IC, please use the following link: https://aslpcompact.com/. Click here for information regarding ASLP-IC meetings, proposed rules, and comment submission: https://aslpcompact.com/commission/

We will continue to share information about the ASLP-IC’s progress.

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Licensure Statistics
As of January 31, 2022

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing Aid Dealers</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total Licenses:</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Across the country, the month of May is widely regarded as Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM). In 2012, Ohio passed a law officially recognizing this month as BHSM. This is a great opportunity to promote this year’s BHSM theme, “Connecting People.”

The Board encourages everyone to raise awareness about communication disorders and the importance of early intervention. The following organizations have posted BHSM resources on their website. (Note: the information and links below do not constitute an endorsement by the Board.)

The American Academy of Audiology has resources such as posters and fact sheets posted at: https://www.audiology.org/get-involved/public-awareness/may-is-better-hearing-month.

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association has posted resources to help you recognize all month long at: https://www.asha.org/bhsm/.

The International Hearing Society has posted BHSM resources at: http://www.ihsinfo.org/IhsV2/News_Info/BHSM%20Press%20Release.cfm

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders has BHSM information at: https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/

If you would like to view our state law designating the month of May as BHSM in Ohio, here is the link: http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/gp5.2281v1.
Licensure Renewal Period:
October 2 - December 31, 2022
For Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Aides, Hearing Aid Dealers, and Hearing Aid Fitters

During the week of September 26, 2022, the Board will begin sending licensure renewal notifications to all individuals whose license will expire at midnight on December 31, 2022. The license renewal period begins on October 2, 2022 and runs through midnight on December 31, 2022. Licensed audiologists, speech-language pathologists, dual licensees, aides, hearing aid dealers, and hearing aid fitters will receive their renewal notification via e-mail the week of September 26th and can renew their license beginning October 2, 2022, online through the eLicense Ohio license management system. In order to maximize cost efficiencies, licenses must be renewed online through eLicense Ohio. The Board will not be able to respond to any requests for a paper renewal application or accept checks or money orders submitted through the mail. Paper renewal applications will not be available from the Board’s website. The Board will periodically send reminders via e-mail to anyone who has not yet renewed their license. If your e-mail address has changed since the last time you reviewed your license, you may update your contact information in eLicense Ohio. Be sure to “Like” our Facebook page in order to receive our updates. Licensure renewal information is also available on the Board’s home page at: www.shp.ohio.gov.

Continuing Education and Ethics Requirement Reminder
Continuing Education & Ethics Resources Available at: http://shp.ohio.gov/ce-ethics

The Board would like to remind all licensees about their respective continuing education requirements for the 2021-2022 practice period.

Requirements for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are required to complete twenty hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-4-01. At least ten hours of continuing education must be specific to the clinical practice in the area the person is licensed. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists required to complete continuing education have until December 31, 2022 to complete their hours.

Requirements for Hearing Aid Fitters
Hearing aid fitters are now required to complete twenty hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-11. Continuing education clock hours must be acquired in subjects related to hearing aid fitting or audiology. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Licensed hearing aid fitters required to complete continuing education have until December 31, 2022 to complete their hours.
Board Continues to Monitor FDA’s Proposed Regulations on OTC Hearing Aids

On October 19, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued proposed regulations to establish a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids. When finalized, the rule could allow hearing aids within this category to be sold directly to consumers in stores or online without a medical exam or a hearing test and fitting by an audiologist or hearing aid fitter. The FDA’s news release can be accessed at the following link: https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-landmark-proposal-improve-access-hearing-aid-technology-millions-americans.

Background History
In 2017, Congress passed the Food and Drug Administration Reauthorization Act, which included the Over the Counter Hearing Aid (OTC) Act. The OTC Hearing Aid Act is designed to provide adults with perceived mild-to-moderate hearing loss access to OTC hearing aids. When the OTC Hearing Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump in August 2017, the FDA was mandated to create and regulate a category of OTC hearing aids within three years of passage of the legislation, and finalize a rule within 180 days after the close of the comment period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, the FDA’s proposed rules for OTC hearing aids were delayed and as mentioned above, finally released on October 19, 2021.

FDA’s Public Comment Period

Important Clarification on Medical Clearance/Waiver
When the OTC Hearing Act was signed into law, the FDA also announced at that time that it would no longer enforce its medical waiver regulation, which requires consumers first to seek a physician for a medical evaluation and clearance or sign a waiver prior to obtaining a hearing aid. The FDA did not rescind the medical clearance regulation and consequently practitioners must follow state laws and rules regarding the “physician clearance/waiver” system. In Ohio for instance, the Ohio Consumer Sales Practice Act requires that a consumer first be medically evaluated or sign a waiver prior to obtaining a hearing aid. The Board also has rules that require the medical clearance/waiver system. For audiologists, please refer to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-8-3 (C). For hearing aid dealers and fitters, please refer to Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-19 (I) and (J). When the FDA’s regulations for OTCs are finalized, we anticipate they will formally rescind their regulations for the physician clearance/waiver system. When the FDA rescinds the regulation, the Board will ensure that its laws and rules governing the sale, fitting, and dispensing of hearing aids do not exceed federal requirements, including possible recension of 4747-1-19 (I) and (J) and 4753-8-3 (C) through our rule-making process at the appropriate time.

We will continue to provide updates as the FDA finalizes its rules for OTC hearing aids and report any changes the Board will need to make to its laws and rules.
Important Reminder for Spring Graduates
Applying for Licensure and Conditional SLPs
competing their experience

The Board would like to congratulate individuals who will graduate this spring from graduate level programs in audiology and speech-language pathology. Individuals who plan to practice in Ohio should submit their application four to six weeks prior to graduation, to ensure a sufficient amount of time to process your application. Please visit the Board’s website to access the eLicense Ohio licensing system to register for your eLicense user account. For individuals applying for their conditional speech-language pathology license, this is a reminder that the supervised professional experience plan, amended plan, and report and contacts log must be submitted within thirty calendar days. For instance, the supervised professional experience plan is due within thirty days of the start date of employment. An amended plan is due within thirty days of a change in the supervised professional experience start or end date, a change in supervisors, or change in employment. The report and contacts log is due within thirty days upon completion of the supervised professional experience or partial completion of the supervised professional experience. The Boards forms and instructions to complete the supervised professional experience are available on our website at: https://shp.ohio.gov/forms.

During the months of May through July, those holding a conditional speech-language pathology license are in the process of completing their supervised professional experience. The Board would also like to remind supervised professional experience supervisors that supervision of the conditional licensee must continue after the Report and Contacts log is submitted to the board office. Ohio Administrative Code sections 4753-3-07 (D)(2) and (G)(2) state in relevant part:

(D) - Supervisor qualifications and responsibilities.
(2) The supervisor shall agree to supervise the practice of speech-language pathology experience of the applicant according to a plan approved by the board.

(G) - Supervised professional experience report and supervision contacts log.
(G)(2) After submission of the "Supervised Professional Experience Report" and "Supervision Contacts Log," the conditional licensee shall abide by the requirements for conditional licensure until full licensure is granted.

When the conditional licensee and professional experience year supervisor have signed the Report and Contacts Log, the conditional licensee must submit the document within thirty calendar days of completion of the professional experience. The professional experience year supervisor shall continue to supervise the conditional licensee until the Board approves the Report and Contacts Log and issues the conditional licensee their speech-language pathology license. Supervisors should check with the conditional licensee to verify timely submission of the Report and Contacts log. The status of the conditional licensee’s license should be verified from the eLicense Ohio website, license look-up page at: https://shp.ohio.gov/license-lookup. If there are any issues or concerns, the licensure board should be contacted at: (614) 466-3145 or via e-mail at: board@shp.ohio.gov.
ODE Pupil Service License - HB 442 - Reminder

House Bill 442 amended Section 3319.221 of the Ohio Revised Code to create a new option for individuals who hold a professional license as a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, registered nurse holding a bachelor’s degree in nursing, physical therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants, and social workers. These individuals will be able to apply, through the CORE licensing system, for a registration to allow them to serve in their given occupation on either a full time or substitute basis, without the need to hold the previously available pupil services license. The registration will cost $150.00 dollars and be valid for five years. It will require validation of the professional license, and a transcript showing the appropriate degree for school nurses only, as well as our required background checks. After five years, they will only require validation of continuing to hold the required professional license and background checks to renew. There are no other renewal requirements. The bill went into effect on April 7, 2021 and the Ohio Department of Education’s Department of Educator License has information about the new registrations posted on their website at: http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Apply-for-Certificate-License/Pupil-Services-Licenses.

It very important to understand that the Pupil Services License is not going away and practitioners who hold their pupil service license can continue to renew it or switch to the registration. The fee for the Pupil Services License is $200.00. Each applicant is going to need to make their own decision as to whether or not to renew the pupil service license or switch to the pupil service registration, depending on their needs. The Board urges licensees to check with their school district or educational service center to verify whether they will continue to require that related service personnel hold the pupil service license or will accept the registration as a condition of employment.

The Board has been informed that the Department of Education is forming a cross-agency team to address questions that have arisen about registration and how to provide training to those who are pursuing registration and do not have a school background or training. For more information, please visit the Office for Exceptional Children’s website at: http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Office-of-Exceptional-Children-Contact-Information.

The Board would also like to remind audiologists and speech-language pathologists working in the school setting under a pupil service registration of their ethical duty to be proficient in areas of practice and provide only services to students for which he/she is properly trained. See Board rule 4753-9-01(B)(4) and (C)(3)(b).

Ohio Dyslexia Committee - Update

As previously announced in previous eNewsletters, board member Steven Griffin, M.A., CCC-SLP, was appointed to the Ohio Dyslexia Committee as the representative for speech-language pathology. The Ohio Dyslexia Committee was created after passage of House Bill 436 in 2020 to develop a guidebook regarding the best practices and methods for universal screening, intervention, and remediation for children with dyslexia or using multi-sensory structured literacy programs. Mr. Griffin brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the areas of universal screening, intervention, and remediation for children with dyslexia and children displaying dyslexic characteristics and tendencies. He, along with other experts serving on the Ohio Dyslexia Committee have met throughout 2021 to develop a guidebook on identifying and serving school children with dyslexia. In early 2022, the Committee submitted a proposed guidebook to the State Board of Education for approval.

For more information, please visit the Ohio Department of Education’s website at: https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Dyslexia/Dyslexia-Committee.
Board Reminds Practitioners of Duty to Report

The Board would like to remind practitioners of their duty to report direct, first-hand knowledge, of violations under Ohio Revised and Administrative Code sections 4744, 4747 and 4753. All licensees practice under a Code of Ethics. For hearing aid dealers, fitters, and trainees, the duty to report is specified under Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-23 (B)(10), which states: licensees shall report to the board any violation of the board rules or any breach of the code of ethics of which that the licensee is aware. For audiologists, speech-language pathologists, conditional speech-language pathologists, and aides, the duty to report is specified under Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-9-01 (B)(10), which also states: licensees shall report to the board any violation of the board rules or any breach of the code of ethics of which the licensee is aware. Licensees have a duty and responsibility to report known violations of the practice act and breach of the code of ethics. Licensees can report violations by submitting a complaint on the eLicense Ohio website: File a Complaint—Duty to Report. You may also contact the Board office and request to speak with the Executive Director, Gregg Thornton, if you have questions about whether a situation should be reported. The Duty to Report requirement is an important component to a practitioner’s responsibility under their license, as well as ensuring consumer protection.

Board’s Proposed Rules Under Review by Common Sense Initiative Office - Update

The Board announced earlier this year that it was proposing to amend the following rules. The Board received public comments and took them into consideration. The proposed rules are currently under review by the Ohio Common Sense Initiative Office (CSI), which received additional public comments. The Board will provide additional updates on its website once the proposed rules and public comments have been reviewed by CSI.

The proposed rules are listed below:
Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-11
Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-14
Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-17

The Board would like to thank everyone who submitted public comments. The Board will hold a formal rules hearing when CSI issues a final recommendation authorizing the Board to proceed. Please visit the Board’s website from more information at: https://shp.ohio.gov/enforcement/laws-and-rules. We will also provide an update on the final rules in an upcoming eNewsletter.

Board Accepting Public Comment on Rules Scheduled for 2022 Five Year Review

The Board is required to review its rules every five years. The following rules are scheduled for five year review in 2022. The Board is accepting public comment on the five year rules until May 1, 2022. The Board is accepting public comment on the five year rules until May 1, 2022. Comments may be submitted to the Board’s Executive Director at Gregg.Thornton@shp.ohio.gov. The full text of these rules and any proposed changes can be accessed from the Board’s website at: https://shp.ohio.gov/enforcement/laws-and-rules

(Continued on next page)
Board Accepting Public Comment on Rules Scheduled For 2022 Five Year Review (continued from previous page)

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4744 - Rules governing the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board
There are no rules under OAC Chapter 4744 scheduled for five year review in 2022.

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4747 - Rules governing the practice of hearing aid dealing and hearing aid fitting
The following rules under OAC Chapter 4747 are scheduled for five year review in 2022 and are being proposed for renewal without any changes:

- 4747-1-03 Licensing requirements
- 4747-1-02 Definitions and interpretations
- 4747-1-08 Application for license and permits
- 4747-1-09 Examination
- 4747-1-10 Reciprocity
- 4747-1-12 Duplicate certificates
- 4747-1-13 Sales receipt
- 4747-1-15 Fraud and/or misrepresentation, suspension, revocation or refusal of issuance of licenses and trainee permits
- 4747-1-16 Advertising
- 4747-1-19 Rules on appropriate test procedures

The following rules are being proposed with changes:
Note: the proposed changes in these rules were previously submitted for public comment in 2021 and are currently pending final review with the Office of Common Sense Initiative. Please refer to page nine of this newsletter for more information about these proposed changes.

- 4747-1-11 Renewal procedures
- 4747-1-14 Trainees
- 4747-1-17 Licensee responsibilities

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4753 - Rules governing the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology
The following rules are being proposed for renewal without any changes:

- 4753-5-01 Speech-language pathologist or audiologist; fee for initial license; fee for renewal of license; late renewal fee
- 4753-8-01 Definitions
- 4753-8-03 Rules on appropriate hearing aid test procedures
- 4753-8-05 Fraud or misrepresentation; hearing aid, assistive listening device; disciplinary action
- 4753-9-01 "Code of Ethics"
- 4753-10-01 Educational requirements for student permit
- 4753-10-02 Ohio speech-language pathology graduate program requirements
- 4753-10-04 Application for speech-language pathology student permit
- 4753-10-05 Speech-language pathology student permit holder case load
- 4753-10-06 Identification of speech-language pathology student permit holder
Hearing Test Procedures During COVID-19 - Important Reminder

With Ohio’s vaccine distribution plan well under way, Ohioans, including businesses, governmental entities, and schools, are implementing responsible restart plans to resume daily activities and services. During the Stay-At-Home order that went into effect from March 23 through May 29, 2020, certain exceptions allowed individuals to leave their residence to work for or obtain essential services. This exception included all individuals licensed under our Board’s Ohio Revised and Administrative Code Chapters 4744, 4747, and 4753. The Board received inquiries regarding whether or not in-person testing requirements for the dispensing of hearing aids were waived due to Ohio’s Stay-At-Home order issued in response to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The Board addressed this question in its special edition eNewsletter released in May 2020, clarifying that the measurement and testing of human hearing is a requirement for the fitting and sale of a hearing aid.

Even though the Stay-At-Home order is lifted and the vaccine is now available to all age groups between five years of age and older, the Board would like to remind licensees that appropriate test procedures must continue to be followed. In Ohio, for an audiologist, the measurement and testing of human hearing by means of an audiometer or by any other means is a requirement for the purpose of selecting, adapting, and selling a hearing aid to any person. Best practice would include an otoscopic examination. For a hearing aid fitter, the rules specifically state the required hearing tests that shall be completed before recommending, selling or fitting of a hearing aid. A screening for hearing loss does not meet the Board’s rules/requirements for selecting, adapting, and selling of a hearing aid.

No Surprise Act

As of January 1, 2022, consumers have new billing protections when receiving emergency care, non-emergency care from out-of-network providers at in-network facilities, and air ambulance services from out-of-network providers. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which was enacted on December 27, 2020, contains provisions to help protect consumers from surprise bills, including the No Surprises Act. For more information on how new rules help protect people from surprise medical bills and remove consumers from payment disputes between a provider or health care facility and their health plan, please visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website at: https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises.
CE Broker - Sign-up Today!

CE Broker is the official CE tracking system of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. You will never have to pay for a CE Broker Basic Account. However, licensees do have the option to subscribe to an upgraded account, which offers additional CE tracking tools. Please visit the Board’s website at https://shp.ohio.gov/continuing-education to learn more.

HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR FREE CE BROKER ACCOUNT?
1. Visit www.cebroker.com/oh/plans
2. Select the Basic Account option
3. Enter your license number and get started tracking your continuing education!

Comprehensive Course Search
The CE Broker Course Search helps you find every course you need to complete your license renewal. To find courses, visit courses.cebroker.com/search/oh and select your profession.

Helpful Support Center
CE Broker’s dedicated support center is available 8AM-8PM ET Monday - Friday with a team of experts trained on the rules and regulations of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. Reach them by phone at 877-434-6323 or via email and live chat.

Benefits of using CE Broker
- Track your continuing education hours required to renew your Ohio license;
- Know precisely how many hours you’ve completed and how many hours are remaining;
- Exemption from a continuing education audit once your 20 hours are reported
- Bring CE compliance wherever you go with the CE Broker mobile app. Available on iPhone and Android from the App Store or Google Play.

OMNIE—UpCycling Speech and Language Guidelines
Just a reminder that topic modules are still maintained and accessible on the Ohio Master’s Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) website at: https://omnie.ocali.org/. The topics are maintained and updated by practitioners regarded for their expertise, knowledge and experience over the subject areas addressed. The guidelines and resources support school based practitioners, including intervention specialists, teachers, administrators and parents. Accessing the modules will require you to register for a free account which will only take a few minutes, and is highly encouraged to ensure that funding continues in order to maintain and develop additional modules.
What is the best way to receive information and updates from the Board about Ohio’s preparedness to COVID-19?

The best way to stay informed is to visit our board website at: https://www.shp.ohio.gov or “Like” us on our Facebook page. We are posting updates on Ohio’s preparedness to COVID-19 on a regular basis from Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, and other state agencies as their information is received.