

For more updates on the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's response to COVID-19, please visit [www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give-help/donate-food-funds/covid19](http://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give-help/donate-food-funds/covid19)

**Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
COVID-19 Update  
April 2, 2020**

We've learned all sorts of new things in the past few weeks - and we are also grateful to be learning from our colleagues across the country at other Feeding America foodbanks. Our leaders and staff in a variety of departments have been participating in webinars with other foodbanks and walking away feeling good about our safety and response efforts, and also refreshed to know that we are not in this alone - we have an amazing network of support.

We debriefed on our most recent food distribution on Tuesday and realize that it went really well. While we always strive to be better - just a few tweaks here and there for the next one. Given the need, these distributions will be held weekly and at least for the near future, they'll be held at the Muni lot. We are grateful to Global Cleveland as they secured translators and we'll ask for their assistance at future distributions. We'll be promoting distributions in a variety of ways including through our Help Center and, of course, on local media and social media as well. And, we are very excited to engage a shift of about 25 volunteers to help the Guard and staff with next week's distribution. We miss seeing our volunteers as they are such a part of who we are.

Just a quick update, the number of backpacks that will be provided on a weekly basis is 6,458; however, that is likely to increase as more and more CMSD schools are participating. Also a shout out to Shoes & Clothes for Kids for providing close to 1,200 bags with school supplies and personal hygiene items. We know that it takes a village to raise a child and the greater Cleveland community is "one strong village."

Our community continues to support our efforts in so many ways. On April 9, Mike Petrone will be doing a virtual benefit concert to benefit the Food Bank. Mike has been entertaining customers at Johnny's Downtown for many years. Thank you Mike! Also a shout out to the Cleveland Police who helped tremendously at Tuesday's distribution and also delivered 40 emergency boxes to homebound individuals.

Our staff continues to work their hearts out day after day - whether at the Food Bank or from home, they work till the job is done and then go back the next day.

As we opened this piece, we noted that we are learning a lot and one tough lesson is the lack of human contact. Did you ever think about the importance of a handshake or a hug? The reassurance it brings and while we all understand the need for social distancing, the human touch means so much. We'll get through this and when we do, there will be lots of high fives and back slaps and good firm handshakes.

***Focus on possibility and who can help and how.***

Mary LaVigne Butler, VP of External Affairs