

## COVID-19 Dine Safe Ohio Order FAQ

### Protecting Against COVID-19

On May 14, Amy Acton, M.D., MPH signed the Director's Dine Safe Ohio Order that reopens restaurants and bars to dine-in service with exceptions. On June 5, Dr. Acton signed the Amended Dine Safe Order. The following are frequently asked questions that apply to both dine-in and outdoor dining at restaurants, bars, and banquet and catering facilities.

#### **Do restaurant, bar, and banquet and catering facilities employees have to wear facial coverings?**

The order requires employees to wear facial coverings unless they meet one of the exceptions in the Sector-Specific Guidelines for Restaurants and Bars available at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/sector-specific-operating-requirements/sector-specific-operating-requirements>. Businesses must provide written justification, upon request, explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

#### **What types of barriers and dimensions for barriers are recommended for restaurants and bars?**

It is recommended that barriers placed between booths or tables be smooth, easily cleanable, non-porous, properly cleaned between dining parties, and comply with building or fire department regulations. Shower curtains may be used if they meet these stipulations and are approved by the building and/or fire department. Barriers made of fabric, cloth, or other porous material are not permitted.

It is recommended that the dimensions of barriers between booths or tables be sufficient to prevent customers from extending/reaching over the booth/seat to interact with other customers.

#### **What should a COVID-19 floor plan include?**

A floor plan should include at least the following:

- Entrances and exits
- Configuration of tables, chairs, and booths for dining areas and bars
- Kitchen areas to ensure social distancing
- Barriers to be installed where social distancing cannot be accomplished
- Waiting areas ensuring social distancing
- Flow of customers through the facility
- Designated ordering and waiting areas for carryout and delivery customers
- Locations of hand washing/sanitizer stations.

## **Can multiple customers sit together in a restaurant or at a bar, and can a restaurant offer private dining?**

Yes, as long as the size of party does not exceed the 10-person mass gathering limit and they are seated at least 6 feet from other customers or separated by a physical barrier.

Private dining may be offered as long as the size of the party does not exceed the 10-person mass gathering limit.

## **Who is going to approve COVID-19 trainings?**

The Ohio Department of Health is not aware of any agency approving COVID-19 trainings. It is recommended that trainings include COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Can a food facility offer self-service food, drinks, or condiments?**

Some self-service items are prohibited. These include, but are not limited to:

- Self-service condiment stations
- Bulk donut cases
- Roller grill stations
- Soft serve ice cream and yogurt machines
- Bulk food dispensers
- Self-service stations that allow customers to help themselves to free product samples.

Salad bars and buffets are permitted if served by staff within 6 feet of social distancing between parties.

Self-service beverages are permitted.

This applies in any setting including restaurants, bars, gas stations, convenience stores, and grocery stores. The order requires table and common area items such as table tents, vases, lemons, straws, and stir sticks be removed. Condiments and condiment bottles should be removed from tables and provided in single packets, cups etc. It is recommended that condiment packets that are served to a customer and not consumed be discarded.

Pre-packaged foods and drinks may still be offered for retail sale.

## **Are food courts permitted to open, and what are the guidelines they must follow?**

Yes. Food courts must follow the Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services Guidance.

## **Are businesses with food service operation permitted to open, and what are the guidelines they must follow?**

Yes. Any business with a food service operation must follow the Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services Guidance.

**Does the order prevent grocery stores, farmers markets, and other facilities from selling self-serve fresh produce?**

No. Self-serve produce may be sold since it must be washed prior to consumption.

**Can a food facility offer free samples?**

Yes, but only when the free samples are directly handed to the customer by an employee of the food facility. For example, samples of ice cream may be handed to a customer at an ice cream counter prior to a purchase being made. Food self-service stations, including those that allow customers to help themselves to free product samples, must be discontinued.

**Can a restaurant or bar offer live entertainment, such as music?**

Live entertainment is permitted in restaurants and bars as long as the individuals who are performing maintain social distancing of **at least** 6 feet from all other people including, but not limited to, fellow performers and restaurant and bar patrons and staff.

Disc jockeys are permitted as long as they practice social distancing.

**What other types of entertainment are allowed in restaurants, bars, and banquet and catering facilities?**

Congregate areas in restaurants, bars, and banquet and catering facilities that are not necessary for the preparation and service of food or beverages are permitted. However, businesses must follow all social distancing and sanitation guidelines. This includes the following:

- Billiards
- Card playing
- Pinball games
- Video games
- Arcade games
- Dancing
- Strolling entertainers.

**Are customers and guests permitted to stand or walk around while consuming food or beverage?**

No. Customers and guests must be seated when consuming food, beer, wine, and liquor on the premises of a business.

**Are tabletop lottery and Keno games permitted in restaurants and bars?**

Restaurants and bars should follow the guidance of local health department officials on this.

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

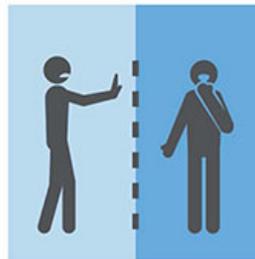
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)