

## COVID-19 Guidance for Essential Businesses and Operations – Guidelines for Essential Businesses and Operations Employers

***In order to minimize contact among people and stop the spread of COVID-19, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton are ordering all Ohioans to stay home or at their place of residence, effective 11:59 p.m. March 23, except for essential activities, essential governmental functions, or to operate essential businesses and operations. Homes or residences include houses, rental units, hotels, motels, shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities. The order will be in effect until 11:59 p.m. April 6, 2020. An [amended order](#) will go into effect, April 7 and last until 11:59 p.m. May 1, 2020.***

In this order, essential businesses and operations employers must:

- Allow as many people as possible to work from home by implementing policies in areas such as teleworking and video conferencing.
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home until they are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least 72 hours (three full days) AND symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours AND at least seven days have passed since symptoms first began.
  - Do not require a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of employees sick with acute respiratory illness; healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.
- Ensure that your sick leave policies are up to date, flexible, and non-punitive to allow sick employees to stay home to care for themselves, children, or other family members.
  - Consider encouraging employees to do a self-assessment each day to check if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath).
- Separate employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) from other employees and send the home immediately. Restrict the access to the business until they have recovered.
- Reinforce key messages – stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene – to all employees, and place posters in areas where they are most likely to be seen.
- Provide protection supplies such as soap and water, hand sanitizer, tissues, and no-touch

- disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces such as workstations, countertops railing, door handles, and doorknobs.
    - Use cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
    - Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.
  - Be prepared to change business practices if needed to maintain critical operations (e.g., identify alternative suppliers, prioritize customers, or temporarily suspend some of your operations).

#### Social Distancing Requirements:

Essential business and operations and businesses engaged in minimum basic operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements, including where possible:

- **Designate six-foot distances.** Designate with signage, tape, or by other means six foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance.
- **Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products.** Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers.
- **Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations.** Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers.
- **Online and remote access.** Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

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).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department  
of Health

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

## PREVENTION

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STAY HOME



PRACTICE  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP  
AND EAT WELL-  
BALANCED  
MEALS



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



DRY HANDS WITH  
A CLEAN TOWEL  
OR AIR DRY  
YOUR HANDS



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



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



CLEAN AND DISINFECT  
"HIGH-TOUCH"  
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING  
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD  
HYGIENE HABITS

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