



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Lori Criss, *Director*

March 23, 2020

>>> COVID-19 “Stay at Home” Guidance for Providers

On Sunday, March 22, under the direction of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH issued a [director’s order](#) to require all Ohioans to stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 **beginning at 11:59 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 23, 2020 until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020**. This order prohibits holding gatherings of any size and closes all nonessential businesses. It does NOT prohibit essential activities like going to the grocery store, receiving medical care, or taking your pet for a walk. Residents can return home from out of state and can leave the state.

Leaving the home for Essential Activities is permitted. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform one of the listed “Essential Activities.” Health and safety actions such as seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional, are all considered to be essential activities. Additional activities that are listed as “essential” are obtaining necessary supplies and services, outdoor activity, certain types of work, and taking care of others such as a family member or pet.

Individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services through Healthcare and Public Health Operations. Healthcare and Public Health Operations includes, but is not limited to: hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities, including those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information; pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials’ licensed medical marijuana dispensaries and licensed medical marijuana cultivation centers; obstetricians and gynecologist; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home healthcare services providers; **mental health and substance use providers**; other healthcare facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary healthcare services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

Essential Businesses and Operations are permitted to operate and are defined as Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure. **This includes home-based care and services** for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, **substance use disorders, and/or mental illness**, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child’s home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery. **Residential facilities and shelters** for adults, seniors, children, pets, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, **substance use disorders, and/or mental illness** are also considered essential.

Essential Businesses must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements.

Including, where possible:

- 1. Designate six-foot distances.** Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
- 2. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products.** Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;

3. **Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations.** Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
4. **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.

Providers should note, that the intent of this Order is to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19.

To read the full order from the Ohio Department of Health, [click here](#). [Stay at Home Order Frequently Asked Questions](#).

>>> Ohio Agencies Win Federal Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced six new grants to Ohio organizations for the 2020 Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (STOP Act). The goal of this program is to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults ages 12-20 in communities throughout the U.S. The activities implemented in the project will work to address community norms regarding alcohol use by youth, reduce opportunities for underage drinking by limiting youth access to alcohol, create changes in underage drinking enforcement efforts, address penalties for underage use, and/or reduce the prevalence of negative consequences associated with underage drinking (e.g., motor vehicle crashes, sexual assaults). Grantee communities will also build on strategic plans that were developed with Drug-Free Communities Coalitions.



The following organizations were awarded \$50,000: Youngstown Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, Sandusky County, OneEighty, Inc. in Wooster, PreventionFIRST! in Cincinnati, Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Board and Fairfield City School District.

In addition, Miami University received a \$124,999 grant for Mental Health Awareness Training in the surrounding community.

>>> NEOMED Offers COVID-19 ECHO Sessions

Northeast Ohio Medical University Project ECHO is offering two pop-up ECHO sessions in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Registration for each session is required. Space is limited. For more information and registration visit

<https://www.neomed.edu/projectecho/upcoming-events/>.

COVID-19: What Medical Professionals Need to Know – March 27, Noon-1:30 p.m. | [Register](#)
Coping for Health Care Workers During COVID-19 – April, Noon-1:30 p.m. | [Register](#)



>>> OCAAR to Host Statewide Meditation Group on Facebook Live

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR) has announced that it will host a live, statewide meditation group on Facebook, beginning this Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. OCAAR will continue to host live, 30-minute weekly meetings with different teachers and different messages. All are welcome. To participate, visit [OCAAR's Facebook page](#).

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov.

In the News

3.23.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Coronavirus: 12-step alcohol, drug programs meet online](#)

3.23.20 | *The Ohio State University News* [Study finds more mental health visits decrease risk of suicide among youths](#)

3.22.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Highlighting the helpers: Neighborhood throws a 'social distancing' parade for 6-year-old](#)

- 3.22.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Guernsey County sheriff, prosecutor release ‘Antivirus Character Education’ results](#)
- 3.22.20 | *Greenville Daily Advocate* [Accessing mental services during pandemic](#)
- 3.22.20 | *Spectrum News* [Fighting addiction in isolation](#)
- 3.22.20 | *Daily Jeffersonian* [Noble County CARES: It takes a village to battle addiction](#)
- 3.21.20 | *WEWS-TV* [Don’t forget to take care of your mental health as well during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- 3.21.20 | *Wilmington News-Journal* [Stay active, healthy at Ohio’s parks](#)
- 3.21.20 | *The Plain Dealer* [Coronavirus creating anxiety for those recovering from alcohol or drug addiction, help in Cuyahoga County is still available](#)
- 3.20.20 | *WFMJ-TV* [Those with addictions face unique challenges during coronavirus](#)
- 3.20.20 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Ohio OKs Take Home Methadone Under Strict New Guidelines Due to COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- 3.20.20 | *Norwalk Reflector* [Urge residents to keep calm, connected](#)
- 3.20.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Coping with coronavirus: how to protect your mental health, well-being](#)

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