



# MIKE DEWINE

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## GOVERNOR OF OHIO

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Dear Government Relations Leaders,

It is important to Governor DeWine that we are a regular source of reliable information to the public as we continue managing the state's response efforts to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On behalf of our administration, please circulate this information to anyone you represent so they can be informed and be connected with the state resources to keep them up to date. You and your clients should feel free to share this information through any communication channels you possess, including email alerts and conference calls.

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION:

**ONLINE:** Please visit [www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov](http://www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov) for the most up-to-date information from the Ohio Department of Health.

**PHONE:** For any questions you have about COVID-19, please call 1 (833) 4-ASK-ODH from the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** [@GovMikeDeWine](https://twitter.com/GovMikeDeWine)  
[@LtGovHusted](https://twitter.com/LtGovHusted)  
[@OHDeptofHealth](https://twitter.com/OHDeptofHealth)

**DAILY UPDATES:** Governor DeWine is holding daily press briefings at 2:00 p.m. to deliver the most recent updates as well as give updated guidance for the state's response. These press events are carried live at [www.OhioChannel.org](http://www.OhioChannel.org).

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DISEASE – THESE ACTIONS WILL SAVE LIVES**

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water several times a day. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick (except to visit a health care professional) and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces each day. Use a household cleaner according to label instructions.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Use online transactions when possible.
- Avoid visiting nursing homes -- and if you are sick, do NOT visit nursing homes.
- If you have an older person in your home or someone with compromised health, such as asthma, understand that the biggest threat to them may be you bringing the virus into the home.
- If you or a loved one are older, think twice about an upcoming trip.
- Avoid visiting nursing homes—and if you are sick, do NOT visit nursing homes.
- If you have an older person in your home or someone with compromised health, such as asthma, understand that the biggest treat to them may be you bringing the virus into the home.
- If you or a loved one are older, think twice about an upcoming trip.

## **THE FOLLOWING ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONA VIRUS, EITHER BY GOVERNOR DEWINE, OR BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**

### **[OHD – Director’s Order, Related to the Temporary Closure of Bars and Restaurants](#)**

*March 16, 2020*

### **[ODH – Director’s Order, Related to the Limiting of Access to Ohio’s Jails and Detention Facilities](#)**

*March 15, 2020*

### **[ODH – Director’s Order, Related to the Temporary Closure of K-12 Schools](#)**

*March 14, 2020*

### **[ODH – Director’s Order, Related to the Prohibition of Mass Gatherings](#)**

*March 12, 2020*

### **[ODH – Director’s Order, Related to Visitation in Nursing Homes](#)**

*March 11, 2020*

### **[Executive Order 2020-01D, Related to the Declaration of a State of Emergency](#)**

*March 9, 2020*

### **[ODH – Director’s Order, Related to Spectators at the Arnold Sports Festival](#)**

*March 5, 2020*

## **IMPORTANT NEWS FROM GOVERNOR DEWINE:**

### **[Governor DeWine Orders Ohio Bars & Restaurants to Close](#)**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has issued a [Director's Order](#) that closed all Ohio bars and restaurants to in-house patrons, effective at 9:00 p.m. on March 15, 2020. Restaurants with take-out and delivery options will still be able to operate those services, even as their dining rooms are temporarily closed.

### **[Ohio Bans Mass Gatherings of 100 or More](#)**

Mass gatherings are defined as any event or convening that brings together 100 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

### **[Governor DeWine Signs Emergency Order Regarding Coronavirus Response](#)**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today took a number of actions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). He signed [Executive Order 2020-01D](#), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19.

### **[Governor, Health Director Announce COVID-19 Testing Protocol](#)**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH today announced the state's protocol for maximizing coronavirus (COVID-19) testing resources now that in-state testing is available.

### **[DeWine, Governors Urge Passing of Emergency Coronavirus Measure](#)**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine joined 38 governors in sending a letter to Congressional leaders in support of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 6074).

### **ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT AID FOR OHIOANS:**

The Governor will issue an executive order, which will grant the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) with the authority to accept and grant requests for unemployment compensation suspending the normal 1-week waiting period.

This order will also give relief to applicants who are not offered paid leave through their job, as well as those who have been quarantined by a medical professional, their employer, or whose employers must temporarily close. Those who apply for unemployment under these circumstances will be exempt from the requirement that they be actively seeking work. Learn more at [Unemployment.Ohio.gov](https://unemployment.ohio.gov) or [JFS.Ohio.gov/Coronavirus](https://jfs.ohio.gov/coronavirus).

### **ONE-TIME LIQUOR BUYBACK:**

The Ohio Department of Commerce will immediately begin offering a one-time liquor buyback option to support bars and restaurants. This will especially aid those establishments that have stocked up on high-proof liquor ahead of the St. Patrick's Day holiday for which they now have no use, due to their closure to in-house patrons.

Bars and restaurants wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should return their unopened, high-proof liquor products (obtained within the past 30 days) to the agency where they purchased the product. This opportunity is also extended to those with temporary (F2) permits for events scheduled between March 12 and April 6, 2020. If a business has questions about this program, they should reach out directly to the Liquor Enterprise Service Center (LESC) at 1(877)812-0013 or by emailing [OhioLiquorInfo@Com.Ohio.gov](mailto:OhioLiquorInfo@Com.Ohio.gov).

### **SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

The Ohio Development Services Agency is preparing to submit an application in the coming week to qualify Ohio for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. This program provides low-interest loans up to \$2 million in order to help businesses overcome the temporary loss of revenue during the state of emergency.

Non profit organizations in Ohio will also be eligible for low-interest loans through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

In order to complete the state's application, businesses impacted by the current public health **crisis should immediately** send their contact information to [BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.gov](mailto:BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.gov). Additional information on the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program is available at [SBA.gov/Disaster](https://SBA.gov/Disaster).

Thank you for your help in making sure Ohio's citizens have accurate, up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

Dan McCarthy  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Office of Governor Mike DeWine