



Director of Health's Dine Safe Ohio Order

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: Who is going to approve COVID-19 trainings?

A: ODH 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 (CDC).

2. Q: What types of barriers are recommended?

A: 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.

3. Q: What are the recommended dimensions for barriers?

A: 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.

4. Q: Do restaurant and bar employees have to wear face coverings?

A: The order requires employees to wear a face covering unless they meet one of the exceptions in the standards. Businesses must provide justification for employees that do not wear face covering.

5. Q: What should a COVID-19 floor plan include?

A: It is recommended a floor plan include at least the following: entrances and exits; configuration of tables, chairs and booths for dining areas and bars, and 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.

6. Q: Can condiment bottles be used?

A: No, the order requires self-service, table, and common area items (e.g. table tents, vases, lemons, straws, stir sticks, condiments) be removed. Condiments should be provided in single packets, cups, etc. It is recommended that condiment packets that are served to a customer and not consumed be discarded.

7. Q: Can a restaurant or bar offer live music, gaming or other activities?

A: No, the order states open congregate areas in restaurants and bars that are not necessary for the preparation and service of food or beverages (billiards, card playing, pinball games, video games, arcade games, dancing, entertainment) shall remain closed. This also includes, but is not limited to, live music in the restaurant, bar and on patios; gaming areas; dance floors; and arcade games (including those sitting on bars or counters).

8. Q: Can multiple customers sit together in a restaurant or at a bar?

A: Yes, as long as the size of the party does not exceed the mass gathering order (currently no more than ten) and they are seated at least six feet from other customers.

9. Q: Can a restaurant offer private dining?

A: Yes, as long as the size of the party does not exceed the mass gathering order (currently no more than ten).

10. Q: Can a food facility offer self-service food, drinks or condiments?

A: No, self-service food, drink, and condiment stations, are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, self-serve condiment stations, bulk donut cases, roller grill stations, hot and cold beverage stations, soft serve ice cream and yogurt machines, bulk food dispensers, and self-service stations that allow customers to help themselves to free product samples.

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

A: No, self-serve fresh produce may be sold since it must be washed prior to consumption.

12. Q: Can a food facility offer free samples?

A: Yes, but only when the free samples are directly handed to the customer by an employee of the food facility (e.g., samples of ice cream 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.

13. Q: Are pre-packaged foods and drinks prohibited under the order to close self-service food stations?

A: No, prepackaged foods and drinks may be offered for retail sale.