

Entry Category: Government Affairs

Ohio COVID-19 Public Policy Advocacy

Goals & Objectives: The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association engaged in advocacy related to the government response to COVID-19 beginning on March 3. The need became clear on that day: we would have to fight to limit the negative impact on our members that the coming limits, restrictions, prohibitions and mandates were going to create. As an entity represented on a public board of one of the state's largest meeting venues, we were intimately involved in the first discussions that ultimately led to the cancellation of most of the one of the largest and most lucrative events in Ohio's biggest lodging market: The Arnold Schwarzenegger Sports Festival. This started the state's response to COVID-19.

It became clear that the industry would need a number of things to happen to support the desired outcome of limiting economic damage as much as possible: clear, precise and open communication; representation with elected and appointed state officials and their key staff members; reliable analysis of directions from state and local governments that were changing by the hour and in some cases contradictory; and a sustained and tireless effort to tell our story and convey the real world impacts of various options being considered.

OHLA's government affairs success related to COVID-19 is not evidenced by a splashy or dramatic outcome in the form of legislation to correct problems in the state's pandemic response. Rather, our success was avoiding the need for such measures by helping to produce better outcomes earlier in the process, and ahead of many other states.

We quickly developed a set of policy priorities which included the definition of hotel & lodging operations as essential businesses to avoid mandatory closure; allowing meetings and events business in hotels; allowing hotel food and beverage operations the same business opportunities as stand-alone restaurants and bars; provide economic relief for member businesses through as many forbearance mechanisms as possible; collaboration with authorities on the temporary use of hotels for health care related purposes; specific measures to address hotels impacted by CMBS lending; direct financial relief to travel economy businesses; planning for needed job training and placement dollars; and limiting liability for hotel & lodging businesses in Ohio.

As part of an essential industry, OHLA never closed its office. We relocated to a new location for the first time in 40 years, a block away from Ohio's state capitol building and state office towers. We continued to represent the industry in a visible way, including new signage which reinforces our contribution to Ohio's economy (see attached).

Target Audience: OHLA began communicating with public officials the first week of March, including but not limited to the Governor, Lt. Governor (lead on business issues), Director of Development Services Agency, Tax Commissioner; Director of Insurance; Director of Commerce; Fire Marshall, TourismOhio division chief; legislative leaders and all 132 members of the legislature; mayors and city council members of Ohio's major cities; county commissioners, Ohio's Congressional delegation and key staff members for all of these individuals.

OHLA also participated in discussion of ad hoc “Strike Forces” and advisory groups created by the governor to provide specific input on different aspects of the government’s pandemic response. OHLA member hoteliers were part of those groups.

OHLA also participated in interviews or responded to inquires with detailed information with more than 75 media sources in the period of March-October to reinforce our positions and the state of our industry.

Results of Program: OHLA’s initial and most important result was the **inclusion of hotels as part of Ohio’s “Essential Businesses and Operations”** in the first Director’s Stay at Home Order on March 22, and in all subsequent updates to the Order. The Order placed hotels in the same category as healthcare, public health operations, human services, essential government functions and essential infrastructure. Although meetings and events business was temporarily suspended, the ability of hotel businesses to remain open was a lifeline, and allowed them to participate in the state’s response to the pandemic.

The next most important result **was the ability for hotel & lodging businesses in Ohio to host group meetings and events of up to 300 guests** (not inclusive of hotel staff) in the Director’s Dine Safe Ohio Order. This critical update, announced on May 21, was not automatic. In fact, the original Dine Safe Order did not account for businesses other than restaurants and bars being able to reopen for on-premises business.

Only after OHLA had impressed upon officials the impact that the original Order had by allowing restaurant and bar business but not hotel group business was the Order updated to include an exemption for banquet & catering facilities services (see May 19 OHLA letter attached).

OHLA was also one of the leading business organizations calling for a statewide face coverings order to counter the implementation of a patchwork of conflicting local regulations just before the July 4 holiday. Although the governor had originally declined to implement a state mandate, business input and pressure helped tip the scales (see attachments in additional information).

Other positive outcomes impacted by OHLA’s consistent advocacy since March 3 include:

- Passage of H.B. 606, COVID-19 liability protections (OHLA testimony provided three times)
- Ability for hotel restaurants and bars to participate in carry out service from March 15
- Department of Insurance Bulletin 2020-03 and 2020-07 on premium deferrals
- Executive Order 2020-08D Guidance on Commercial Evictions and Foreclosures
- OAR 4301-1-180 limitation on hours for on-premises consumption of alcohol (alternative to complete bans on alcohol sales or more restrictive hours at local level)
- Inclusion of “ballrooms” as permissible venues under the state’s newer Entertainment Venue order allowing events in that category
- Proposal by Treasurer of State for a business relief fund and announcement by Governor of legislation to accomplish that goal
- Creation of job training and placement program through state’s JobsOhio program
- Sign-on by half of Ohio’s U.S. House delegation on letter of support for subsequent CMBS lending relief legislation
- Introduction of legislation by U.S. Representative Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) to provide federal funding mechanism for hotels used as temporary health care related facilities due to COVID-19.

Evaluation Measures:

The ability of hotels to do business at a sustainable level in Ohio is the most important measurement. While many obstacles continue to make that harder each week, **the ability to service events of up to 300 has been a critical lifeline.**

How was the program presented?: OHLA employs a full-time government affairs representative and lobbyist, and its Executive Director is a registered lobbyist. From March 3 through March 23, we had as many meetings and interactions as possible, in anticipation of the Stay at Home Order which eventually took effect on that date.

We began using online meeting platforms early and had forums and meetings with large numbers of members and legislative leaders (more than 100 member participants on our largest forums), and more meetings with select, smaller numbers of members who were constituents of key state and federal officials.

On federal issues we collaborated closely with AHLA's government affairs team, and delivered measurable support for key efforts on lending relief and general economic support.

Our public policy advocacy was inextricably linked with our need to update members about pandemic orders and developments. We regularly included advocacy content in these updates to let members know what was being done on their behalf (proved critical in the darkest days at the height of the closures) and to engage when they could help.

Additional information: See attached information for samples of OHLA communications to officials on the record as follow-up to our many conversations, emails, and meetings. Also included are examples of member communications and some of the key positive results.



**OHIO HOTEL
& LODGING
ASSOCIATION**

OHLA
OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTS



**NO
ROOM**
FOR TRAFFICKING
AN OHLA CAMPAIGN

**HOTEL
BUSINESSES
SUPPORT
192,000
JOBS
IN OHIO
AND PROVIDE
\$2 BILLION
IN TAXES
ANNUALLY**



**MONTHLY AND DAILY
PARKING**





OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION
175 SOUTH THIRD STREET, SUITE 170
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-5134
P: (614) 461-6462

May 19, 2020

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor's Office
Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

RE: Hotel industry input on events and mass gatherings

Dear Governor DeWine,

The hotel & lodging industry appreciates the productive steps taken to limit the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19 in Ohio. We continue to share information regarding actions taken by the state and consistently advise our member businesses on adhering to the letter and the intent of the Orders and advisories which have clearly made a difference in how the pandemic impacted Ohio.

Hotels are essential businesses. In addition to providing necessary accommodations for travelers and local residents who may be temporarily displaced, hotels serve essential government travelers, first responders, and others who are necessary to fighting the spread of disease or otherwise responding to disasters. Hotels are housing hospital workers and volunteering to be temporary health-care related facilities. Hotels are also servicing at-risk and homeless clients, as well as those engaged in essential businesses and operations, including transportation, logistics and others critical to the state's response.

One of the greatest impacts of the COVID-19 response on the hotel & lodging industry, and the travel economy in general, has been the limits on events and mass gatherings contained in various official state Orders. The inability of hotels to service any event consisting of more than 10 participants has had the effect of grinding the largest part of our business to a complete stop. As the state now takes steps to reopen much of the economy in a safe manner, we urge adaptation of revised limits that are commensurate with the opening of other sectors that will lead to the congregation of groups in confined spaces, most specifically with the Responsible RestartOhio requirements and recommendations for restaurants and bars.

Ohio's hotel & lodging businesses can begin contributing to the economy – and recall tens of thousands of associates back to work – once we are able to start hosting group business in a responsible and safe manner.

Hotels that service groups and events are in many cases even more capable than some establishments in the restaurant and bar sector in implementing health and safety protocols required to allow moderate crowds in appropriate-sized spaces. Hotel meeting planners regularly create and utilize floorplans for every event, making adaptation to COVID-19 compliant standards easy to implement in these settings.

Hotels are also already implementing the necessary standards and practices, including spacing, sanitization stations, face coverings, signage, symptom assessment, and other key steps in their common space areas as a part of their daily business practices. The American Hotel & Lodging Association, in conjunction with every national hotel brand, has issued new Safe Stay guidelines for Enhanced Industrywide Hotel Cleaning Standards. The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association is providing additional detailed cleaning and sanitization information, and access to products and services to help the industry raise the bar for its already strict protocols. Hotels are ready to apply these lessons and models to meeting and event environments as well.

(continued)

With these facts in mind, the hotel & lodging industry urges state officials to update the guidance on events and mass gatherings to allow for business in hotel environments and other meeting and event venues as follows:

- Venue shall establish and post maximum room capacity using updated COVID-19 compliant floor plans for all events and functions. Seating at individual tables to be limited at no more than 10, as in restaurants and bars
- Venues with banquet service shall post kitchen floor plans, establish safe social distancing guidelines and follow established guidance for face coverings and gloves
- Event/meeting space to be thoroughly cleaned between each event, including cleaning and sanitization of tabletops, chairs, and all other surfaces. All high-touch areas to be cleaned at least every two hours, and more frequently as needed (e.g. door handles; light switches; phones; pens; touch screens)
- Hand washing/sanitizing products to be provided for guests in common areas
- Use of clearly-marked safe distancing separations for registration function or other areas of congregation
- Elimination of all self-service and tabletop items
- Removal of excess furniture as is helpful to emphasize distancing
- Staggering of meeting start, end and break times to eliminate congregation between groups in common areas
- Verification of proper operation of ventilation and filtration systems on a regular basis
- Employees shall maintain appropriate distancing or be separated by barriers
- Employees to utilize facial coverings with the exceptions established for restaurants and bars
- Employees trained on and must perform daily symptom assessment, and required to stay at home if symptomatic
- Employees trained utilizing industry standard programs and protocols, including AHLA Safe Stay, ServeSafe for food service or banquet environments, and other protocols specific to each environment
- Employees to utilize increased hand washing and other safety protocols, including limits on congregation and staggered arrival or departure times
- Guests to be instructed on six feet distancing guidelines in appropriate spaces and markings utilized where possible
- Guests seated only in groups of 10 or fewer depending on table size, with increased spacing between seated individuals than previous industry standards
- Guests allowed and encouraged to utilize face coverings except when dining
- Symptomatic individuals to be isolated and provided access to medical care
- Notification required to local health authorities regarding confirmed or suspected cases and exposures
- Temporary closure of meeting space and deep cleaning/sanitization upon confirmation of exposure

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Businesses in the hotel & lodging industry are also taking additional steps in their operations and processes to reinforce the necessary practices to protect guests and employees. Our members are following increased standards and protocols set forth by federal and state governments, the Centers for Disease Control, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, every major national hotel brand, and our Allied partners representing companies who offer cleaning and sanitization products and services. In addition to complying with requirements and recommendations related to events and mass gatherings, our businesses are and will continue to implement the following practices:

- Enhanced communications with employees to continually update cleaning and safety practices, and with guests to ensure their understanding and compliance
- Staff trainings on COVID-19 countermeasures specific to meetings & events, food service, check-in, common areas and overnight accommodations
- Adoption of “touchless” practices for delivery of services or items wherever possible
- New signage and informational resources for back-of-house and public areas
- Continued collaboration with companies expert in cleaning and disinfection, including development and expedited implementation of new technologies, trainings and seminars, and information sharing
- Continual connection and cooperation with local health authorities

With a commitment to follow all of these important steps, we believe the hotel & lodging industry is ready to safely and responsibly service groups of moderate size in our meeting spaces. In many cases, these spaces allow for even more distancing than other environments that are starting to reopen and will service groups of people in their establishments.

By following the general approach established for the similar businesses of restaurants and bars, and adding important provisions relevant to hotel event and meeting venues as suggested above, we can begin to service groups and help get Ohio back to work.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to support the state’s actions on COVID-19 response, and to serving the business that relies on holding events and meetings in Ohio.

Sincerely,


Joe Savarise
Executive Director


Deidra Marshall
Middletown Hotel Management, OHLA Board President

Board Members

Alan Assaf, Indus Hotels, Columbus, OHLA Executive Committee
Melissa Baker, Columbus Hospitality Management
Eric Belfrage, CBRE, Columbus
Chad Bortle, SBJ Management Inc., Newark

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Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association (OHLA)

May 19, 2020

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Kevin Claus, Cedar Grove Lodging, Logan
DJ Falcoski, New Avenue Architects & Engineers, Upper Arlington
Lisa Garner, Marriott and Residence Inn Columbus OSU Area, Chair, Greater Columbus Lodging Council
Sue Graves, Greater Columbus Convention Center
Steve Groppe, DoubleTree by Hilton Cleveland Westlake
Ben Haller, Concord Hospitality Chair, Greater Dayton Lodging Council
Mark Hecquet, Butler County Visitors Bureau
Holly Hollingsworth, Hotel LeVeque, Columbus
Nancy Howard, Hilton Columbus/Polaris
Sumeet Jetha, Jetha Group, Cincinnati
Geri Lombard, Hotel LeVeque, Columbus, OHLA Past President
Deidra Marshall, Middletown Hotel Management, Middletown, OHLA Board President
Jalen Miller, Wallhouse Hotel - Walnut Creek
David Minah, The Tudor Arms Cleveland DoubleTree, Chair, Greater Cleveland Lodging Council
Bill Reed, Aloft Cleveland Downtown, OHLA Executive Committee
Wade Riedman, Kingsgate Hotel & Conference Center/The Graduate, Cincinnati
Derek Roorda, The Phelps, a Residence Inn by Marriott, Cincinnati
Richard Stegman, Victorian Tudor Inn, Bellevue, Past Chair, Unique Lodging of Ohio
Stephen Stewart, Hyatt Regency Columbus
Cristian Teusan, Embassy Suites Akron Canton Airport, North Canton
Steve Van Sickle, Sauder Village Inn, Archbold
Andy Vasani, InnVite Hospitality, Columbus, OHLA Executive Committee
Steve Wolever, Signature Worldwide, Dublin, OHLA Executive Committee

Local Chairs

Mike Delaney, Key Hotel & Property Management, Chair, Northwest Ohio Lodging Council
Tom Donnelly, Atlantic Hospitality, Chair, Greater Akron Lodging Council
Lisa Garner, Marriott and Residence Inn Columbus OSU Area, Chair, Greater Columbus Lodging Council
Ben Haller, Concord Hospitality Chair, Greater Dayton Lodging Council
Nicole McCabe, Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls, Chair, Unique Lodging of Ohio
David Minah, The Tudor Arms Cleveland DoubleTree, Chair, Greater Cleveland Lodging Council
Jason Tyson, Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, Chair, Cincinnati Hotel Association

Government Affairs Committee Members

Alan Assaf, Indus Hotels, Columbus
Chad Bortle, SBJ Management Inc., Newark
Kevin Claus, Cedar Grove Lodging, Logan
Lisa Garner, Marriott and Residence Inn Columbus OSU
Steve Groppe, DoubleTree by Hilton Cleveland Westlake
Mark Hecquet, Butler County Visitors Bureau
Nancy Howard, Hilton Columbus/Polaris
Geri Lombard, Hotel LeVeque, Columbus
Lea MacLaren, Wingate by Wyndham Sylvania/Toledo
Wade Riedman, Kingsgate Hotel & Conference Center/The Graduate, Cincinnati
Derek Roorda, The Phelps, a Residence Inn by Marriott, Cincinnati
Richard Stegman, Victorian Tudor Inn
Andy Vasani, InnVite Hospitality, Columbus
Buzz Wheatley, ITA Audio-Visual, Cincinnati

Testimony to the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee for HB 606 ▪ June 30, 2020

Joe Savarise, Executive Director ▪ Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 606, which recognizes the need for protections for Ohio businesses and employers in the age of COVID-19.

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association represents owners, operators, managers, and employees across the state, as well as hundreds of companies that rely on a strong lodging market for their businesses. Our industry appreciates the productive steps taken to limit the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19 in Ohio. We are partners in working with local, state and federal authorities to protect the health and safety of travelers, guests, employees and all Ohioans.

Hotels are essential businesses. In addition to providing necessary accommodations for travelers and local residents who may be temporarily displaced, hotels serve essential government travelers, first responders, and others who are necessary to fighting the spread of disease or otherwise responding to disasters. Hotels are also housing hospital workers and volunteering to be temporary health-care related facilities and are servicing at-risk and homeless clients, as well as those engaged in essential businesses and operations, including transportation, logistics and others critical to the state's response to the public health emergency.

The hotel & lodging industry comprises many franchised businesses as well as many entrepreneurial small business owner-operators. These businesses are largely locally owned and operated, even when they are affiliated with a national brand. A large percentage are family-owned companies.

Our owners, operators and associates are understandably concerned about the threat of liability, even though they have always followed some of the strictest standards and protocols for cleaning and sanitization, and have taken steps to increase those practices in response to current challenges.

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association is partnering with the American Hotel & Lodging Association on the launch of new, enhanced industry-wide cleaning standards and accompanying trainings and certifications. Hotels are updating their procedures and bringing new technologies online, including UV systems, in response to the need to fight the transmission of all disease.

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As we approach July 1, hotels are still experiencing low occupancy rates, often less than half compared to normal operations. Revenue is even lower due to the loss of meetings and events business. To allow our economy to recover, it will be critical to protect these severely distressed businesses and employers from lawsuits related to the exposure of contraction of an illness in environments that are taking these responsible measures.

Our industry has suffered an historic setback, with more than 70 percent of our workforce idled and economic losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars to date. The onset of frivolous lawsuits would be an obstacle to getting our businesses back to more regular operation and bringing these employees back to work.

Based on our experience, we believe that our industry will be a target for meritless lawsuits, because our businesses helped serve the state's response efforts, because every guest and customer is a potential plaintiff, and because the nature of COVID-19 means that every public space entails some risk. This very real threat is one of our biggest obstacles to recovery for an industry that will face other lasting economic challenges well into 2021 and possibly beyond.

Ohio's hotel & lodging industry is positioned to help lead the way to overall economic recovery. To accomplish this, we must have some basic protections from the inevitable opportunistic efforts to use litigation or the threat of litigation to extract financial gain from local businesses.

We add our voice in respectfully asking for your thoughtful consideration of House Bill 606 and your support of its provisions that address concerns for Ohio businesses and employers.

Thank you.



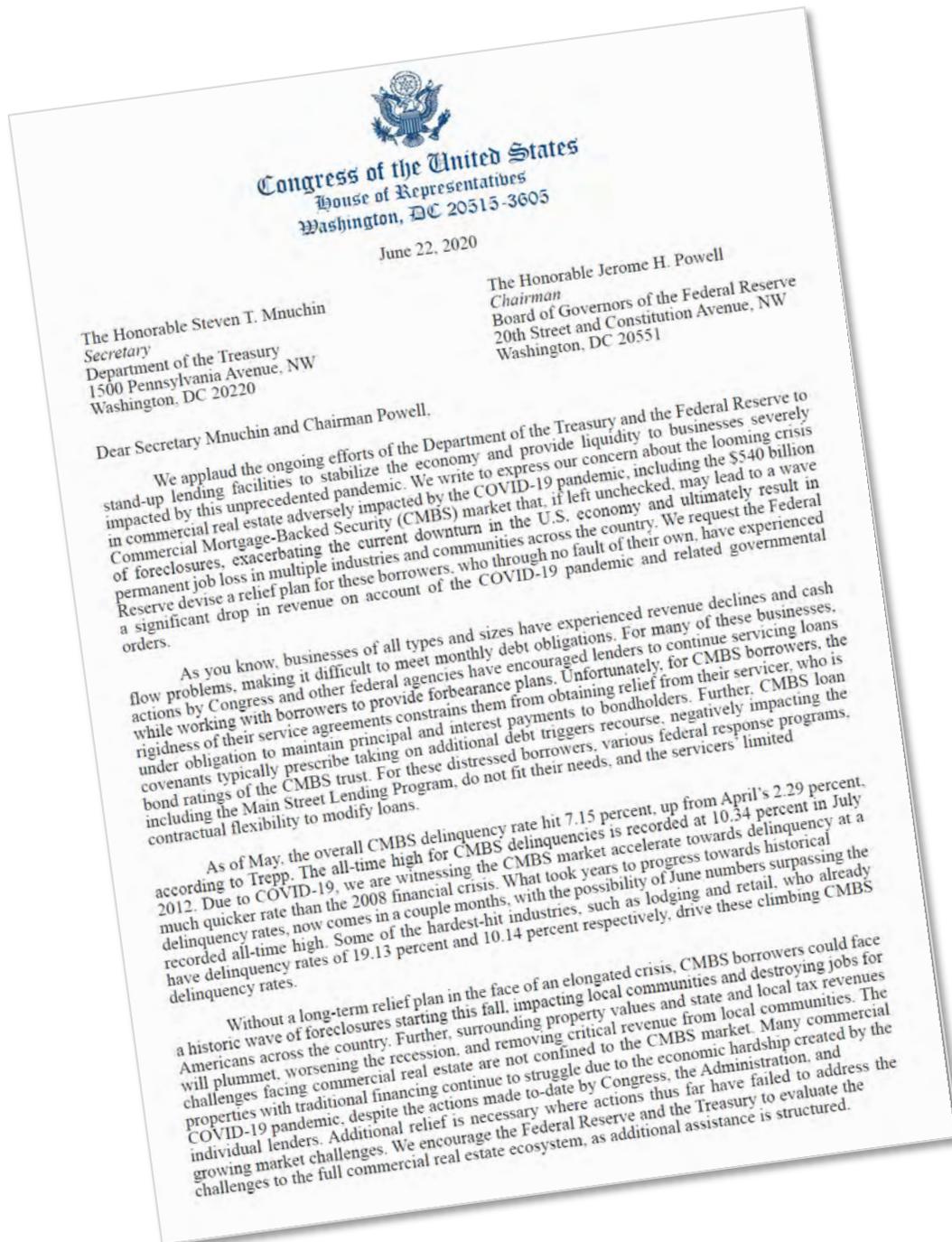
Joe Savarise, Executive Director
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association
175 S. Third Street, Suite 170
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 461-6462

Bipartisan Letter to Treasury and Fed on Commercial Real Estate Relief

Signed by half of Ohio's U.S. Representatives before legislation was even circulated:

Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus)
Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus)
Rep. Bob Latta (R-Bowling Green)
Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R-Rocky River)

Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Troy)
Rep. David Joyce (R- Bainbridge Twp)
Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Cincinnati)
Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Cincinnati)





OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION
175 SOUTH THIRD STREET, SUITE 170
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-5134
P: (614) 461-6462

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Robert Sprague
Office of the Treasurer of State
30 East Broad Street, 9th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Lydia L. Mihalik, Director
Ohio Development Services Agency
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Pandemic Relief Fund Proposal

Dear Treasurer Sprague and Director Mihalik,

Ohio's hotel & lodging industry offers its support for your efforts to provide much needed assistance to small businesses that are still facing massive disruption and crisis due to the economic impacts of the pandemic. We also support the utilization of federal pandemic relief funds to provide grants to these businesses and employers.

Most hotel & lodging businesses in Ohio are either franchised or independent operations. Hotel owners and operators are contributors to their local economies and part of their local communities. These businesses have been heavily impacted by the loss of business due to the initial restrictions on travel and commerce, and then by the continuing restrictions on the size and type of business they can accept. Compounding that issue are the new, increased operational expenses incurred to ensure that all guests and employees in these environments are safe and protected.

The end result is that as much as **half of our workforce continues to be displaced; half of hotel owners are in danger of foreclosure on their business; and more than two-thirds of hotels report they will only be able to survive for six more months at the currently-projected levels of business**, unless they can access additional relief. (*"Front Desk Feedback Survey," American Hotel & Lodging Association, Sept. 16, 2020*)

Other states have recognized that directing relief funding to small businesses can be a lifeline in a critical time of need. Recovery in Ohio's travel, meetings and events sector will lag behind many other parts of our economy, in part because of the additional restrictions we face.

We urge the Office of the Treasurer and the Development Service Agency to collaborate on the creation of a Pandemic Relief Fund in time to leverage available resources.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to support the state's actions on COVID-19 response, and to supporting Ohio's travel economy.

Sincerely,


Joe Savarise
Executive Director


Deidra Marshall
Middletown Hotel Management, Board President



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 6, 2020

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Dan Tierney: 614-644-0957

Breann Almos: 614-799-6480

ECONOMIC RECOVERY RELIEF PACKAGE

Governor DeWine announced that his administration is working closely with the Ohio General Assembly on a plan to distribute CARES Act funding to help citizens who are struggling to pay their rent, mortgage, or water and sewage utility bills. The plan will also focus on providing aid to small businesses and non-profits.

More information on the economic recovery relief package is expected to be released soon.



The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association (OHLA) supports the use of face coverings recommended by Governor DeWine and Responsible RestartOhio as an effective way to limit the spread of COVID-19. OHLA supports the efforts of our national partners, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, to urge the President to support the wearing of face coverings in public indoor spaces, and for governors of all 50 states to follow the lead of those who have implemented face covering requirements. The hotel industry has created a “Safe Stay Guest Checklist” which includes requiring face coverings in all indoor public spaces for guests, visitors and customers. Ohio hotels support and are already compliant with the Ohio requirement for employees to wear face coverings. The use of face coverings is critical to individual health safety and saving lives, and also to economic recovery and protecting jobs. Numerous reports, studies, and data show that face coverings can help our state avoid business closures, lockdowns and additional economic pain for millions of Ohioans.





COVID-19 Alert: Gov. urges face coverings; more counties in Level 3; Efforts for Industry Relief Continue

Governor Urges Face Coverings as Alternative to Economic Disaster



Governor Mike DeWine asked Ohioans to take more personal responsibility and do more to fight the spread of COVID-19 on Monday afternoon. The Governor rightly pointed out that good decisions will protect the economy and save lives, but reckless ones will hurt and kill. He suggested that wearing masks is the best way to protect jobs

in Ohio. A recent [GoldmanSachs report](#) shows that wearing face masks can be viewed as an alternative to lockdowns. The Governor asked all Ohioans, wherever they live, to wear a mask when in public. He stated there is a broad consensus in medical, health, & business communities that masks are critical.

Hotel & lodging businesses have been complying with face covering guidance, social distancing, and other steps to limit the spread of COVID-19. OHLA supports programs which increase the use of face coverings, including the new AHLA-OHLA "Safe Stay" protocols. The American Hotel & Lodging Association is urging the [Trump Administration, Governors of all 50 states](#), and local officials to follow the lead of states and cities that have standardized the use of face coverings in all indoor public spaces.

Tuesday COVID-19 Briefing Details Communities in Higher Alert Level



Under the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, 19 counties are now in the second-highest level of alert, and state face covering mandates apply in all of those counties. The Governor stated this will mean 60 percent of the state's population will be under mandated face covering orders.

New additions to Level 3 (Red):

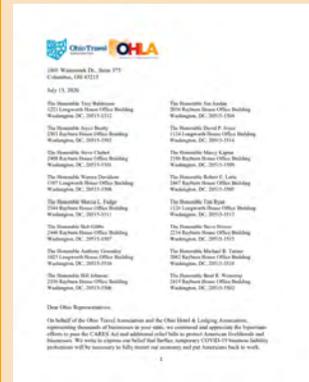
- Athens
- Allen
- Delaware
- Licking
- Lucas
- Richland
- Scioto
- Union

Counties continuing at Level 3 (Red):

- Butler
- Hamilton
- Cuyahoga
- Clermont



[American Hotel & Lodging Association Letter to Governors](#)



[Ohio Congressional and Senate Letters](#)



OHLA Forum with Federal & State Lawmakers

April 23, 2020 | 10:30am Eastern



Congressman
Troy Balderson



Matt Huffman,
State Senator



Rick Carfagna,
State Representative



Michael Evans,
Lobbyist & Govt. Affairs
Representative,
OHLA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

OHLA will host an online/call-in forum to allow OHLA members to hear from and share input with key lawmakers:

- Congressman Troy Balderson
- State Senator Matt Huffman
- State Representative Rick Carfagna

This discussion will be moderated by OHLA lobbyist and government affairs representative Michael Evans. Be part of this important event and hear directly what is happening at the state and federal levels to provide direct financial relief to help hotel businesses survive. Share your questions and priorities directly with those working on our issues. Your participation and your input help us produce better results for our industry.

If you do not have an OHLA website log-in, you will be prompted to create one before registering.

You can ask questions through the GoToMeeting online platform, or if calling in you can submit questions in advance to joe@ohla.org.

**Join us on April 23 for the opportunity hear from lawmakers
& get your questions answered**

*OHLA Forum with Federal and State Lawmakers
Thursday, April 23
10:30 am Eastern*

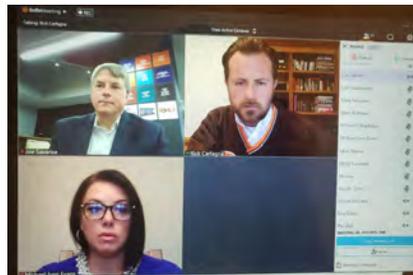


COVID-19 Hotel & Lodging Update – OHLA Forum, Additional Financial Support, Operational Resources



[Fisher Phillips Back to Business FAQ](#)

Lawmakers discuss steps to help industry in OHLA Forum



OHLA members joined industry lobbyist Michael Evans, State Senate Majority Floor Leader Matt Huffman, and State Representative Rick Carfagna, member of the Ohio 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force, for an online forum on industry issues yesterday.

Executive Director Joe Savarise reported on the current state of Ohio’s hotel industry and challenges that continue to threaten it, including:

- more than 70 percent of the hotel workforce currently idled
- 29,700 direct hotel jobs and 86,570 hotel-supported jobs lost in Ohio
- 22.3 percent occupancy avg. statewide, with many hotels in low single digits
- \$150-200 million in lost room revenue statewide

Yet hotels continue to fight to remain open to help serve the state’s response effort.

Sen. Huffman and Rep. Carfagna discussed the work being done by the State of Ohio and the legislature to prepare the state to get back to business as soon as possible, while ensuring important protective measures are maintained. Both acknowledged the very real impact on businesses and employees, and the desire to help industries like ours that have been impacted the most. They discussed a reasonable and common-sense approach.

Specific proposals for hotel & lodging industry economic relief shared by participants included:

- Deferral of payment of state taxes to preserve cash flow
- Deferral and credits of state payroll taxes to coincide with federal deferrals and credits
- Process for deferral of property tax payments including waiver penalties
- Temporary suspension of fees for licensure, inspections, required filings and other official transactions
- hold harmless provisions for liability claims related to transmission of COVID-19 for hotels participating in response efforts or following

sanitization practices

- Expansion of business interruption insurance
- Permissive provisions to allow CMBS lenders to provide flexibility to borrowers
- Implementation of tax parity provisions to require full remittance of tax collected to the State of Ohio and local jurisdictions by all entities selling transient accommodations

Watch for information this week on contacting your lawmakers to support hotel & lodging economic relief measures.

Congress Approves Additional Financial Support



The U.S. House of Representatives approved \$484 billion in additional relief for businesses yesterday, sending the bill that was already approved by the Senate on to the President. The Paycheck Protection Program will receive an additional \$310 billion, Economic Injury Disaster Loans Program (EIDL) will receive an additional \$60 billion.

Five members of the House voted “no”: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY); Thomas Massie (KY); Andy Biggs (AZ); Ken Buck (CO); and Jody Hice (GA). Justin Amash (MI) voted “present” and 35 members were absent.

Additional funding is expected to be used quickly. If you qualify, talk to your lender today about PPP loans. The simplified EIDL online application is temporarily not available until the new appropriation is finalized, but keep checking [this site for the EIDL application](#).

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has [additional guidance on PPP loans](#). They also added additional information in this [updated FAQ](#) document. The update addresses the issue if businesses owned by large companies with adequate sources of liquidity to support the ongoing operations qualify for PPP loans. The updated information also stipulates that entities which receive funds but do not qualify because of access to other sources of liquidity have until May 7 to return funds without penalty.

Illinois Extends Closures until June 1 – Ohio Announcement Monday



Yesterday, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker [extended the state's State At Home Order](#) through the month of May, keeping non-essential businesses closed for now, including bars and dine-in restaurants.

Ohio and Illinois have very similar Stay-At-Home Orders, which allow carry-out food and other essential services to continue.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has indicated that details about what restrictions may be eased in Ohio on May will be discussed this coming Monday, April 27.

Operational Resources – Back to Work



Cozen O’Conner recently presented a webinar to American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) members on Planning Now for the Return to Occupancy. They have produced a resource document with more than 30 considerations for the back-to-business phases being contemplated in Ohio and most states. You can [download After the COVID-19 Pandemic: Planning Now for The Return to Occupancy here.](#)

OHLA partner Fisher Phillips continues to provide useful resources, including the new resource [Post-Pandemic Back-To-Business FAQs For Employers.](#)

JobsOhio Program Makes \$50 million available to rural banks



Businesses served by Marietta-based Peoples Bank and First Federal Bank/Home Savings Bank of Defiance/Youngstown will have the ability access \$50 million in funding for loans of up to \$200,000 to existing business customers. The loans can be used for working capital, including payroll, rent, mortgages, fixed debt, utilities and other bills

The funding was provide by JobsOhio, the State of Ohio’s private economic development corporation. The money was targeted to these banks because they service large parts of the state’s rural regions. Together, the banks have 127 branches in Ohio.

Hotel & lodging business customers of [Peoples Bank](#), [First Federal Bank](#) and [Home Savings Bank](#) are encouraged to check these links and contact their local bank as soon as possible to inquire about applying for this funding.

Women in Lodging (WIL) CONNECT Virtual Meeting - May 14



OHLA and HSMIAI are holding a Women in Lodging (WIL) Virtual Meeting on May 14!

This WIL Connect Virtual Meeting, we will have Female Mompreneur & founder of a’parently, Marti Post presenting on Women & the Mental Load addressing emotion, productivity, and mental health during the pandemic.

We are also welcoming a guest from OhioHealth to talk to us about how to better manage the mental load, talk about the importance of self-care, and have an open discussion about mental health in a time of crisis.

[Join us by registering here.](#)



OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION
175 SOUTH THIRD STREET, SUITE 170
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-5134
P: (614) 461-6462

July 29, 2020

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Rob Portman
The Honorable Troy Balderson
The Honorable Joyce Beatty
The Honorable Steve Chabot
The Honorable Warren Davidson
The Honorable Marcia Fudge
The Honorable Bob Gibbs
The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez

The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable Jim Jordan
The Honorable David Joyce
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
The Honorable Robert Latta
The Honorable Tim Ryan
The Honorable Steve Stivers
The Honorable Michael Turner
The Honorable Brad Wenstrup

Re: Hotel Industry Priorities for COVID 4

Dear Members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation:

The hotel industry has been decimated by the COVID-19 health crisis. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)¹, the leisure and hospitality sector has lost 4.8 million jobs since February. That is more jobs than construction, manufacturing, retail, education, and health services combined. The human toll on our employees and our workforce is devastating, with less than half currently employed. The economic impact to our industry is equally as dramatic, estimated to be nine times greater than the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. According to CBRE and STR², the industry is expected to lose more than fifty percent of its total revenue in 2020 – which would exceed \$120 billion.

As Congress considers additional legislation to address the ongoing health crisis and economic impact of COVID-19, the hotel & lodging industry respectfully requests you to consider the following priorities:

I. Provide additional liquidity for severely impacted businesses through a targeted extension of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Congress should recapitalize the PPP loan program and establish clear parameters limiting access to those businesses that can prove severe economic loss year over year. Further, Congress should increase the maximum loan amount to ensure that it covers both payroll and the servicing of debt, property taxes, insurance, and utilities necessary to keep a hotel in business. Hotels need significant additional liquidity to bring staff back and keep the doors open.

II. Create hotel industry relief opportunities utilizing Federal Reserve and Treasury authority.

a. Establish a Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) market relief fund, with a specific focus on the hotel industry, as part of the Federal Reserve's lending options. Hoteliers with CMBS loans account for nearly \$90 billion in debt and have been largely unable to secure forbearance from their loan servicers due to the unique challenges in obtaining modification approvals from the varied holders of securitized mortgages. As payments come due, hoteliers are rapidly facing default on their obligations; according to Trepp³, nearly 25 percent of hotel CMBS borrowers were delinquent on their payments in June. Pervasive default and foreclosure on hotel CMBS debt would be disastrous for the commercial real estate market at large, as well as the holders of that debt, including pension plans and other investors.

(continued)

Amending Ohio's Nonrecourse Loans Statute

Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) lending accounts for \$86 billion of hotel business financing in the U.S. today. More than half of hotel borrowers have so far been unable to obtain lender concessions allowing for forbearance, payment deferral, waivers or other modifications. More than 80 percent of hotel loans do not permit subordinate debt, preventing the use of the Paycheck Protection Program, absent lender concessions. Many hotel businesses are not having early success with federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, either because their banks were not accepting applications, or they haven't previously used an SBA-approved bank and their own banks are not taking new loan applications.

Ohio Revised Code Section 1319.08 provides borrowers protections for nonrecourse loans by prohibiting the use of postclosing solvency covenants as the basis for negative action against the borrower. Ohio is one of only two states believed to have such protections in statute, along with Michigan.

The existence of this section of law allows the opportunity to address major concerns in the nonrecourse CMBS market. OHLA has suggested amending existing section of O.R.C. Chapter 1319 sections on Nonrecourse Mortgages as follows:

- Permit 60-120 day forbearances to borrowers on an immediate and expedited basis with minimal documentation needed, i.e. borrower's certifications that a state-declared State of Emergency requires this forbearance
- Permit borrowers to grant 60-120 day forbearances of payment on all leases without requiring lender consent, provided the tenants agree to repay the obligations within a rolling 12-month period
- Permit the utilization of all reserves, except for tax and insurance reserves, to be utilized to pay operating expenses first, and then to pay debt service, while also waiving any additional reserve payments being made, except for taxes and insurance reserves, for 90 days
- Permit borrowers to obtain emergency federal disaster relief, including SBA-backed loans without triggering a negative repercussion for the borrower such as Event of Default or creating any Guaranteed Obligation, or such terms as defined in applicable loan documents

For more information, contact Joe Savarise, Executive Director

Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association

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b. Make structural changes to the Main Street Lending Facility established under the CARES Act to ensure hotel companies can access to the program. Due to the hotel industry's asset-heavy business model, hotels are effectively shut out from utilizing this valuable program because of the rigid EBITDA leverage test. Most hotels are financed via mortgage debt, which means that their total outstanding debt is generally already above the maximum six-times EBITDA threshold established in the Main Street Lending Facility.

III. Include Limited Liability Language for Hotels and Other Places of Public Accommodation. Hotels have been deemed essential businesses by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in order to ensure that lodging is available to first responders and health care workers on the front line of the COVID-19 health crisis. Further, many hotels have been utilized by state and local governments as short-term health care facilities or shelter for vulnerable populations, helping to lessen the burden placed on hospitals across the country. As an industry, we have long prioritized the health and safety of our guests and employees. Our organization partners with the American Hotel & Lodging Association on "Safe Stay" protocols implement enhanced cleaning procedures in response to the pandemic. Any hotel that reopens and follows proper public health guidance to protect employees and guests should be afforded a limited safe harbor from exposure liability related to COVID-19.

IV. Ensure targeted tax provisions are included that will benefit severely injured businesses and their employees.

a. Tax credits for Capital Expenditures or Expenses to Meet the Industry's Safe Stay Initiative: The hotel industry is taking extraordinary measures to ensure that our properties across the country are healthy, clean and sanitized for both our guests and our employees. Hotels, which are facing little revenue and demand, will need assistance to offset these new substantial costs.

b. Enhance the Employee Retention Credit (ERC): For those hotels that have maintained salaries and employer-paid health insurance through significant business declines, an expansion of the ERC from the CARES Act would provide a critical lifeline.

c. Create a Temporary Travel Tax Credit: Qualified travel expenses should include any expense over \$50 that is incurred while traveling away from home in the U.S., with explicit reference to the expense of meals, lodging, recreation, transportation, amusement or entertainment, business meetings or events, and gasoline.

d. Exempt taxation on phantom income from loan modification, forgiveness or cancelation: Many hoteliers could be faced with significant tax liability as a result of losing their asset due to COVID-19.

e. Allow full deductibility of the Food and Entertainment Business Expense.

On behalf of Ohio's hotel & lodging industry, we thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time and for your consideration of these priorities for the hotel industry. Our industry stands ready to work with you in this critical moment to help stabilize our economy and support our impacted employees.

Sincerely,



Joe Savarise
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag70.htm#workforce>

² <https://str.com/press-release/us-hotel-demand-not-expected-fully-recover-until-2023>

³ <https://info.trepp.com/trepptalk/cmbs-delinquency-rate-surges-for-the-third-month-nears-all-time-high>



COVID-19 Alert: Support the effort to allow more and larger exhibitions

OHLA members support the effort to allow more and larger exhibitions



Exhibitions mean business. For hotels, for convention centers, and for everyone in the travel economy. Yet at the present time, group business in many hotels has shrunk to nearly zero. In a call this week with a member of Ohio's Congressional delegation, OHLA members explained

that for their properties, the uptick in June business was the result of leisure travel approaching 80 percent of booked business – a level not likely to be sustained in coming weeks and months. At the same time, data shows passenger loads through TSA checkpoints at only 25 percent of the total from the same time last year.

Hotel & lodging businesses need a healthy group business climate in order to survive and thrive. OHLA supports efforts to impact policies that produce favorable outcomes for exhibitions and meetings, and the business they generate, especially during the pandemic recovery phase.



[Exhibitions Mean Business Legislative Priorities 1](#)



[Exhibitions Mean Business Infographic](#)

1.6 MILLION EXHIBITORS IMPACTED

*80 PERCENT OF EXHIBITORS ARE SMALL BUSINESSES

80% OF MARKETERS BELIEVE THAT LIVE EVENTS ARE CRITICAL TO THEIR COMPANY'S SUCCESS

885 BILLION

IN TOTAL IMPACT

117 BILLION

LOSS OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

366 BILLION

IN DIRECT BUSINESS EVENTS SPENDING

6,600,000 JOBS LOST

DIRECT BUSINESS EVENTS

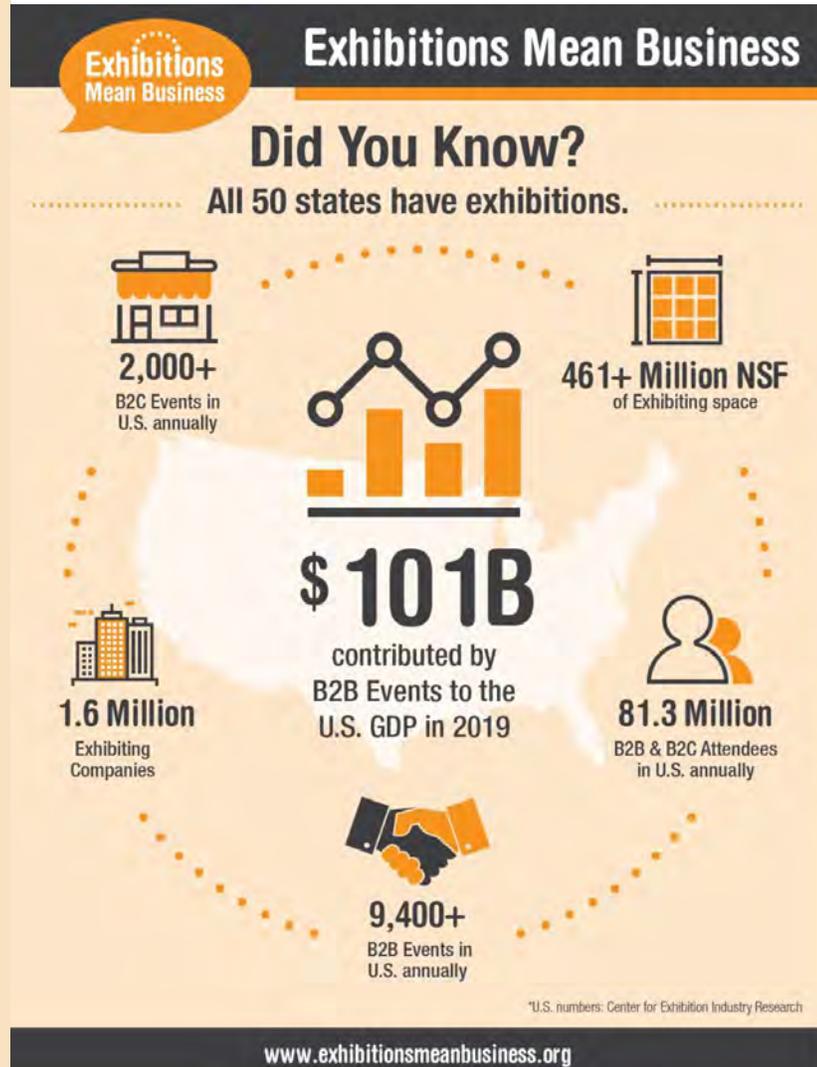
2,800,000 JOBS LOST

2020 BUSINESS EVENTS INDUSTRY

IMPACTS FROM COVID-19

Each year, the International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE) and partners from throughout the travel economy come together to carry the message about economic impact from these events to policymakers on Exhibitions Day. This year, that effort has grown to include [more opportunity for virtual engagement](#) that can help legislators and officials understand the [enormous economic impact](#) of this part of our industry.

A number of OHLA's members and local partners are members of IAEE, including Greater Columbus Convention Center, Duke Energy Convention Center, Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland and SeaGate Convention Centre. Others are a part of other meeting venue and industry organizations working to increase the ability to host safe events, including Sharonville Convention Center, Dayton Convention Center, The John S. Knight Center, and others. Many of our members with smaller venues also have the capacity to host larger events than are currently permitted.



Policy priorities to open up more meetings & exhibitions business

You can be part of the effort to urge our elected leaders and others to adopt measures to:

- [Incentivize a safe restart of the exhibitions, meetings, and events economy](#)
- [Extend and enhance economic relief](#)
- [Support community-based economic recovery](#)
- [Protect businesses that protect public health](#)
- [Enable safe and healthy economic activity](#)

Click on any priority to view a printable document with details.

Key numbers for you to know:

- B2B events contributed \$101 billion to the US GDP last year
- More than 81 million people attend upwards of 11,500 exhibitions annually in the US
- 1.3 million of those attendees participate in exhibitions in Ohio
- Attendees spend \$419 billion directly and create \$1.1 trillion in gross production
- \$55 billion of that impact is spent on hotel & lodging
- Events generate \$130 billion in taxes
- 6.6 million jobs rely on live events nationally
- 70 percent of Ohio's hotel & lodging workforce – 30,000 jobs – were lost



Ways to take action

1. Contact lawmakers and other officials to explain the impact of the loss of meetings & exhibitions on your business (revenue year-to-year, occupancy, layoffs/furloughs, temporary closures)
2. Reinforce the contribution of meetings & exhibitions business on our communities (employment; lodging, sales & other taxes; hotel & lodging development)
3. Share the “Exhibitions Mean Business” Policy Priorities described above with policymakers or their staff ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4 & 5](#))
4. [Forward your message to OHLA](#) to help us build our examples of impacts on our industry

[Find your U.S. Representative](#)

[Find your U.S. Senator](#)

[Find your Ohio State Representative](#)

Help put millions of people back to work
and drive the U.S. economic recovery!

6,640,000 JOBS RELY ON LIVE EVENTS

EVENTS DRIVE LOCAL ECONOMIES!

\$419

BILLION
DIRECT
SPENDING

\$1.1

TRILLION
GROSS
PRODUCTION

EVENTS DRIVE GROWTH!

\$55
BILLION

\$32
BILLION

\$30
BILLION

\$29
BILLION

\$419
BILLION



EVENT-RELATED ECONOMIC IMPACTS

EVENTS DRIVE TAX REVENUES!

\$130

BILLION TOTAL TAXES

\$51

BILLION
FEDERAL TAXES

\$79

BILLION
STATE & LOCAL TAXES

EVENTS DRIVE INNOVATION!

1,700,000*

EXHIBITORS RELY ON EVENTS
TO DRIVE REVENUES

*80% of them are small businesses

\$700 - \$970

BILLION IN VALUE
GENERATED AT EVENTS



Watch for more information from OHLA and our meeting venue partners as we work together to open up more opportunities for meetings, events and exhibitions in a safe manner. The support of our industry will be critical in ensuring that we have the same opportunity for economic recovery as other sectors, while continuing to serve guests, visitors and client organizations with the highest commitment to health, safety and service.

Share questions, concerns and new developments with any member of the OHLA team.

Contact OHLA: 614-461-6462 | info@ohla.org

Executive Director, Joe Savarise: 614-832-7872 | joe@ohla.org





Hotel and Lodging Industry Economic Relief

Ohio's travel economy is essential to the state's overall health and prosperity. Hotel and lodging businesses are a key contributor, with more than 42,000 direct jobs and 192,000 supported jobs. Hotels produce \$27 billion in business sales, \$8 billion in wages and \$4 billion in federal, state and local taxes. Already, 29,700 direct hotel jobs (70 percent) and nearly 86,570 supported jobs have been lost due to COVID-19.

While the economic impacts of the public health emergency will affect every sector of our economy, hotels and hospitality saw early impacts. At the same time, hotel and lodging operators are doing everything they can to keep their businesses operating wherever that is possible, both to provide essential infrastructure to support COVID-19 response efforts, and also to other Essential Businesses and Operations which rely on accommodations.

Our sector of the economy has been impacted like never before in history. To keep Ohio's hotel infrastructure available, to assist the tens of thousands of impacted workers, and to allow our travel economy to recover, we ask for these urgent steps:

1. Industry-specific emergency grant and emergency working capital loan programs to help sustain operations to keep essential hotel infrastructure open
2. A state fund to offset expense of providing accommodations for medical staff, first responders and others involved in COVID-19 response
3. Deferral of requirement to remit sales and other state taxes for the duration of the Emergency
4. Deferral of state payroll taxes to coincide with federal deferrals and authorization of state payroll tax credit to coincide with federal credit mandated by Family First Act
5. Establish process and allow deferrals for property tax payments including waiver of penalties, costs or other charges resulting from non-payment
6. Temporary suspension of state fees for licensure, inspection, required filings or other official transactions
7. Continuation of commercial insurance coverages for hotel and lodging businesses used for COVID-19 response
8. Hold harmless provisions for liability claims related to transmission of COVID-19 for hotels participating in response efforts
9. Require business interruption insurance in force on March 9 to cover certain perils attributable to COVID-19 and provide a backstop mechanism to make funds immediately available for such reimbursement

(continued)

10. Protection from predatory lending practices, including required moratorium on foreclosures up to 120 days from end of Emergency
11. Amendment of existing section of O.R.C. Chapter 1319 sections on Nonrecourse Mortgages as follows:
 - Permit 60-120 day forbearances to borrowers on an immediate and expedited basis with minimal documentation needed, i.e. borrower's certifications that a state-declared State of Emergency requires this forbearance
 - Permit borrowers to grant 60-120 day forbearances of payment on all leases without requiring lender consent, provided the tenants agree to repay the obligations within a rolling 12-month period
 - Permit the utilization of all reserves, except for tax and insurance reserves, to be utilized to pay operating expenses first, and then to pay debt service, while also waiving any additional reserve payments being made, except for taxes and insurance reserves, for 90 days
 - Permit borrowers to obtain emergency federal disaster relief, including SBA-backed loans without triggering a negative repercussion for the borrower such as Event of Default or creating any Guaranteed Obligation, or such terms as defined in applicable loan documents
12. Provide grants to individuals employed in the hospitality industry that have been furloughed, laid off or are otherwise experiencing financial emergencies
13. Funding for job training and placement to assist displaced workers and industry recovery phase
14. Direction for spending of state destination marketing effort by TourismOhio to match total amount of funds available for FY20 and FY21
15. Implementation of tax parity provisions for transient accommodations to require full remittance of tax collected to the State of Ohio and local jurisdictions by out-of-state online travel companies to increase revenues available for COVID-19 relief

For more information, contact Joe Savarise, Executive Director

Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association

175 South Third Street ▪ Suite 170 ▪ Columbus, OH 43215 ▪ 614-461-6462 ▪ joe@ohla.org

Job Training and Placement Receives Attention Under New State Work Program



JobsOhio, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, and the Ohio

Development Services Agency have announced the launch of a new pilot initiative called Ohio To Work.

Ohio to Work will help connect Ohioans looking for a job to a new job opportunity. Ohio To Work brings together employers, nonprofits, educators, and training providers to help Ohioans reskill and restart their careers.

Individuals participating in Ohio To Work will be provided a career coach, be invited to virtual career fairs, and be connected to employers ready to hire. **[The first Ohio To Work initiative will be launched in Cleveland.](#)**

Services provided in the Ohio to Work program include:

- Personalized Career Resources
- Free guidance and resources to help workers finding a stable career
- Personalized support in matching to available jobs
- Career exploration tool
- Funding for trainings for high-demand jobs
- Virtual career fairs
- Resume, cover letter and interview assistance
- Support services such as transportation assistance and childcare

OHLA has made state funding and support for job training and placement a public policy priority since the onset of the pandemic. We have conveyed to state officials that it will be critical to assist displaced workers from within our industry, and to provide individuals entrée into hotel & lodging career opportunities during the recovery phase.

10. Essential Governmental Functions. For purposes of this Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, legislators, judges, court personnel, jurors and grand jurors, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support Essential Businesses and Operations are categorically exempt from this Order.

Essential Government Functions means all services provided by the State or any municipality, township, county, political subdivision, board, commission or agency of government and needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies or to provide for or support the health, safety and welfare of the public, and including contractors performing Essential Government Functions. Each government body shall determine its Essential Governmental Functions and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.

This Order does not apply to the United States government. Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions.

11. Businesses covered by this Order. For the purposes of this Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.

12. Essential Businesses and Operations. For the purposes of this Order, Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, and the following:

- a. **CISA List.** On March 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), issued an updated *Advisory Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response*. The definition of Essential Businesses and Operations in this Order includes all the workers identified in that Memorandum or any updated versions of the Memorandum issued by CISA;
- b. **Stores that sell groceries and medicine.** Grocery stores, pharmacies, farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, prepared food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products), and specifically includes their supply chain and administrative support operations. This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medication not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and Essential Businesses and Operations. Stores shall determine and enforce the maximum capacity of persons permitted in any store such that at all persons in a store at any one time may safely and comfortably maintain a six-foot distance from each other. Every store shall prominently display at every entrance the maximum capacity number. Every store shall ensure that baskets, shopping carts and the like are properly cleaned between customers. If a line is present either

inside or outside the store, a six-foot distance shall be maintained between those not residing in the same household;

- c. **Food, beverage, and licensed marijuana production and agriculture.** Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; licensed medical marijuana use, medical marijuana dispensaries and licensed medical marijuana cultivation centers; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities;
- d. **Organizations that provide charitable and social services.** Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities;
- e. **Religious entities.** Religious facilities, entities and groups and religious gatherings, including weddings and funerals. Wedding receptions are subject to the ten-person limitation in Section 3 of this Order. Weddings and funerals are not subject to the ten-person limitation in Section 3 of this Order;
- f. **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- g. **First amendment protected speech;**
- h. **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.** Gas stations and auto supply, auto-repair, farm equipment, construction equipment, boat repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities;
- i. **Financial and insurance institutions.** Bank, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, payday lenders, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products. Also insurance companies, underwriters, agents, brokers, and related insurance claims and agency services;
- j. **Hardware and supply stores.** Hardware stores, garden centers, nurseries, and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating material;
- k. **Critical trades.** Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses and Operations;
- l. **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods, vehicles or services to end users or through commercial channels;

- m. Educational institutions.** Educational institutions-including public and private pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. This Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede prior Orders regarding the closure of schools;
- n. Laundry services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers;
- o. Restaurants for consumption off-premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the virus's propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property. This Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede prior Orders regarding the closure of restaurants;
- p. Supplies to work from home.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply products needed for people to work from home;
- q. Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Businesses and Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, printing services, household appliances; IT and telecommunication equipment; hardware, paint, flat glass; electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent; and firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security;
- r. Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, marinas, docks, boat storage, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- s. Home-based care and services.** Home-based care 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;
- t. Residential facilities and shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, pets, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness;
- u. Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services);

- v. **Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations;
 - w. **Critical labor union functions.** Labor Union essential activities including the administration of health and welfare funds and personnel checking on the well-being and safety of members providing services in Essential Businesses and Operations - provided that these checks should be done by telephone or remotely where possible;
 - x. **Hotels and motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services;
 - y. **Funeral services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services.
- 13. Minimum Basic Operations.** For the purposes of this Order, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
- a. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
 - b. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
- 14. Essential Travel.** For the purposes of this Order, Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes. Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section.
- a. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
 - b. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
 - c. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
 - d. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
 - e. Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
 - f. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the State. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the State remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2020-08D

Commercial Evictions and Foreclosures

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that individuals can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, testing by the Department of Health confirmed that three (3) patients were positive for COVID-19 in the State of Ohio. This confirmed the presence of a potentially dangerous condition which may affect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I declared a State of Emergency in Executive Order 2020-01D; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020; the Ohio Department of Health Director signed a Public Health Order that required all individuals currently living in Ohio to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in certain circumstances, such as for essential activities, essential governmental functions, or to participate in essential businesses and operations, to further increase social distancing and ensure that as many people as possible stay at home to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, time limitations for criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings that were set to expire between March 9, 2020 and July 30, 2020 have been tolled through the enactment of Section 22 of Amended Substitute House Bill Number 197 of the 133rd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Ohio has provided guidance to local courts to temporarily continue eviction filings, pending eviction proceedings, scheduled move-outs, and the execution of foreclosure judgments; and

WHEREAS, under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and prior federal directives, many residential properties have had a temporary period of suspension regarding evictions and foreclosures put into place; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts of COVID-19 on Ohio businesses have been significant; and

WHEREAS, during this public health emergency, commercial evictions and foreclosures destabilize local economies and threaten designated essential businesses and operations; and

WHEREAS, a period of suspended, but not negated, rent payments for small business commercial tenants would provide temporary financial relief throughout this unprecedented pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a period of forbearance would provide a pause and would allow time for sensible solutions to be worked out between commercial real estate borrowers and lenders; and

WHEREAS, the actions of other states, such as California and New York, to shield their businesses from evictions and foreclosures place Ohio businesses in a competitive and economic disadvantage;

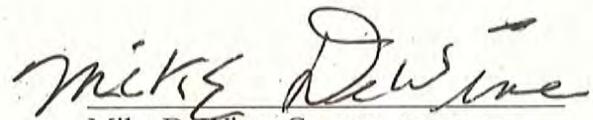
NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, specifically the implied police powers of the Tenth Amendment, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, Article III, Section 5, and the laws of this State do hereby order and direct that:

1. Landlords are requested to suspend, for a term of at least ninety (90) consecutive days, rent payments for small business commercial tenants in the State of Ohio that are facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
2. Landlords are requested to provide for a moratorium of evictions of small business commercial tenants for a term of at least ninety (90) consecutive days; and
3. Lenders are requested to provide commercial real estate borrowers with a commercial mortgage loan for a property located in the State of Ohio an opportunity for a forbearance of a term of at least ninety (90) consecutive days for said mortgage as a result of a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
4. "Lender" as that term is used herein shall include any banking organization, bank holding company, credit union, mortgage broker, mortgage loan servicer, master or special servicer, mortgage revenue bond issuer, mortgage revenue bond holder, mortgage loan originator, owning or holding any mortgage loan secured by property

located in the State of Ohio, including commercial mortgage-back securities (CMBS) loans; and

5. "Forbearance" as that term is used herein shall mean an agreement to forbear from (a) the enforcement of any remedies following any monetary or non-monetary defaults arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the filing of suit against any borrower, maker, co-maker or guarantor, the filing of foreclosure, appointment of a receiver, impounding of reserve or other funds deposited in accord with any loan or security documents, or termination of any license to use cash, or (b) sweeping and/or seizing any cash by reason of cash sweep trigger events regardless of a default or the existence of circumstances that may give rise to a cash sweep trigger event arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, or (c) any requirement that a party waive any legal rights or admit any default arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
6. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to negate the obligation of a small business commercial tenant to pay rent or restrict a landlord from recovering rent at a future time; and
7. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to negate the obligations of a commercial real estate borrower, but rather provide a pause and time for sensible solutions to be worked out among commercial real estate borrowers and lenders; and
8. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to suspend any federal or state law.

I signed this Executive Order on April 1, 2020, in Columbus, Ohio, and it shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect for ninety (90) days unless modified or rescinded by me before then.


Mike DeWine, Governor

ATTEST:

Frank LaRose, Secretary of State





DIRECTOR'S ORDER

In Re: Order Limiting the Sale of Food and Beverages, Liquor, Beer and Wine to Carry-out and Delivery Only

I, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 to “make special orders...for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases” **Order** the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Ohio:

1. Liquor, beer and wine sales in the State of Ohio are restricted to carry-out sales and delivery only, to the extent permitted by law. No onsite consumption is permitted.
2. Food and beverage sales are restricted to carry-out and delivery only, no onsite consumption is permitted.
3. This Order does not apply to and/or exempts food service in health care facilities and catering at weddings or funerals.
4. Lines for carry-out in these establishments must have an environment where patrons and staff maintain social distancing (six feet away from other people) whenever possible.
5. Everyone is urged to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette (coughing into elbow, etc.).
6. The immediate implementation of this Order is necessary as patrons of bars and restaurants continue to gather in large numbers, in close proximity to each other, in enclosed spaces, thereby endangering the health of the staff as well as the patrons.
7. The overriding goal of this Order is to minimize the in-person interaction which is the primary means of transmission. Restaurants and bars increase and encourage talking, touching and other social interaction in an environment with a multitude of hard surfaces.
8. This Order shall take effect at 9:00 p.m. tonight, March 15, 2020. This Order will be continuously evaluated and may be modified or extended by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health at any time.
9. To the extent any public official enforcing this order has questions regarding the sale of food, liquor, beer or wine under this Order, the Director of Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order.

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that individuals can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

On January 23, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Journal Entry making COVID-19 a Class A reportable disease in Ohio.

On January 28, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health hosted the first statewide call with local health departments and healthcare providers regarding COVID-19.

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern.

On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

On February 1, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a statewide Health Alert Network to provide local health departments and healthcare providers with updated guidance for COVID-19 and revised Person Under Investigation (PUI) criteria.

On February 3, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health trained over 140 personnel to staff a call center for COVID-19, in the event it was needed.

On February 5, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health began updating and notifying the media of the number of PUIs in Ohio every Tuesday and Thursday.

On February 6, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health updated all agency assistant directors and chiefs of staff on COVID-19 preparedness and status during the Governor's cabinet meeting.

On February 7, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency met to conduct advance planning for COVID-19.

On February 13, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health conducted a Pandemic Tabletop Exercise with State agencies to review responsive actions should there be a pandemic in Ohio.

On February 14, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health held a conference call with health professionals across the state. The purpose of the call was to inform and engage the healthcare community in Ohio. Presentations were provided by the Department of Health, Hamilton County Public Health, and the Ohio State University.

On February 27, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency briefed the directors of State agencies during the Governor's cabinet meeting regarding preparedness and the potential activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

On February 28, 2020, the "Governor DeWine, Health Director Update COVID-19 Prevention and Preparedness Plan" was sent to a broad range of associations representing healthcare, dental, long-term care, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, business, public transit, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and local governments.

On March 2, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health activated a Joint Information Center to coordinate COVID-19 communications.

On March 5, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health hosted the Governor's Summit on COVID-19 Preparedness, a meeting with the Governor, cabinet agency directors, local health department commissioners, and their staff.

On March 6, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health opened a call center to answer questions from the public regarding COVID-19.

On March 9, 2020, testing by the Department of Health confirmed that three (3) patients were positive for COVID-19 in the State of Ohio. This confirms the presence of a potentially dangerous condition which may affect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of Ohio.

On March 9, 2020, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency activated the Emergency Operations Center.

On March 9, 2020, the Governor declared a State of Emergency in Executive Order 2020-01D.

On March 11, 2020, the head of the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

On March 11, 2020, testing by the Ohio Department of Health confirmed that one (1) more patient was positive for COVID-19 in the State of Ohio.

On March 11, 2020, the Ohio Departments of Health and Veterans Services issued a Joint Directors' Order to limit access to Ohio nursing homes and similar facilities.

On March 12, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order to prohibit mass gatherings in the State of Ohio.

On March 12, 2020, testing by the Ohio Department of Health confirmed that one (1) more patient was positive for COVID-19 in the State of Ohio.

On March 13, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an amended Director's Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Nursing Homes and Similar Facilities.

On March 14, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an amended Director's Order to require health screening for admission to state operated psychiatric hospitals and Ohio Department of Youth Services facilities.

On March 14, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order to close all K-12 schools in the State of Ohio.

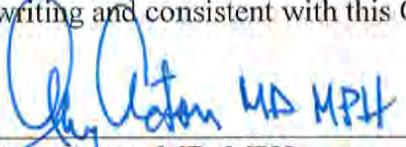
Multiple areas of the United States are experiencing "community spread" of the virus that causes COVID-19. Community spread, defined as the transmission of an illness for which the source is unknown, means that isolation of known areas of infection is no longer enough to control spread.

Previously studied human coronaviruses (including SARS, which is very closely related to COVID-19) can survive on paper, wood, glass, plastic for up to 4-5 days. *Persistence of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces and their inactivation with biocidal agents*, The Journal of Hospital Infection, March 2020, Volume 104, Issue 3, Pages 246-251.

Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said that research findings confirm that COVID-19 is spread simply through breathing, even without coughing. <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/study-highlights-ease-spread-covid-19-viruses>.

The CDC reports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) however some spread might be possible before people show symptoms although that is not the main way the virus spreads.

Accordingly, to avoid an imminent threat with a high probability of widespread exposure to COVID-19 with a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the general population, including the elderly and people with weakened immune systems and chronic medical conditions, I hereby **ORDER** liquor, beer and wine sales in the State of Ohio are restricted to carry-out sales and delivery only, to the extent permitted by law. No onsite consumption is permitted. Food and beverage sales are restricted to carry-out and delivery only, no onsite consumption is permitted. This Order does not apply to and/or exempts food service in health care facilities and catering at weddings or funerals. Lines for carry-out in these establishments must have an environment where patrons and staff maintain social distancing (six feet away from other people) whenever possible. Everyone is urged to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette (coughing into elbow, etc.). The immediate implementation of this Order is necessary as patrons of bars and restaurants continue to gather in large numbers, in close proximity to each other, in enclosed spaces, thereby endangering the health of the staff as well as the patrons. The overriding goal of this Order is to minimize the in-person interaction which is the primary means of transmission. Restaurants and bars increase and encourage talking, touching and other social interaction in an environment with a multitude of hard surfaces. This Order shall take effect at 9:00 p.m. tonight, March 15, 2020. This Order will be continuously evaluated and may be modified or extended by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health at any time. To the extent any public official enforcing this order has questions regarding the sale of food, liquor, beer or wine under this Order, the Director of Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order.


Amy Acton, MD, MPH
Director of Health

March 15, 2020



DIRECTOR'S ORDER

Re: Director's Order that Provides Mandatory Requirements for Entertainment Venues

I, Lance Himes, Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 to "make special orders...for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases" **Order** the following to prevent and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio:

1. Purpose: COVID-19 continues to present a substantial risk to Ohioans. As recognized by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and other authorities, the more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading. The risk of spread also increases when people from outside the local area or state travel to an event. The lowest risk is where an event is virtual. The global response to the pandemic prompted the shutdown of Entertainment Venues. However, the performing arts provide substantial benefits for youths and adults, including the promotion of mental health, stress relief, and encouraging civic engagement. These benefits must be balanced as Ohio continues to limit certain activities in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. This Order is intended to adopt a balance between these competing interests. However, the more COVID-19 spreads in a community, the higher risk there is to performers and patrons and their respective communities as a whole. Public officials must continually reassess the risks and benefits of Entertainment Venues in their community, and nothing in this Order prevents or discourages local public officials from imposing additional and more restrictive limitations on gatherings at Entertainment Venues, including adopting rules that provide for capacity limits stricter than this Order.

By this Order, the Ohio Department of Health is adopting the minimum mandatory standards that must be complied with by all whom perform, work or are patrons of Entertainment Venues.

2. Entertainment Venues are permitted to present and host entertainment events. Subject to their full compliance with all provisions of this Order, Entertainment Venues are permitted to present and host entertainment events within the State. Performers, employees and patrons shall comply with this Order, including compliance with the Social Distancing Requirements. For purposes of this Order only, "Entertainment Venues" shall include auditoriums, stadiums, arenas, concert and music halls, theaters, ballrooms, gymnasiums, convention centers, arcades, bingo halls, adult and child skill or chance games, laser tag facilities, and interactive game facilities hosting non-Sports events. This order covers only Entertainment Venues that have not been otherwise addressed in other director of health orders, including venues encompassed by the Director's Order that Provides Mandatory Requirements for Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club and Professional Sports signed August 19, 2020. Also, for purposes of this Order only, "Patrons" shall include spectators, customers, interactive participants, game players, clients, or other individuals