



A Public Health Guidance Document For Economic Recovery In Logan County

We are in the midst of a pandemic.

Proper public health strategies are our only effective containment measure.

It worked with the Spanish Flu (1918-19), Ebola (2014) and SARS (2003).

Testing, isolation, contact tracing and quarantine, the CORNERSTONES of public health, all fail when tests are unavailable or results take 7 days or more, and when the public health work force is massively undermanned.

The only reasons advocated for this shutdown are to save the elderly and compromised and to stop our health care system from being overrun- and that is probably why recent models are showing such better projected outcomes.

Until a vaccine is available all that is being done is spreading the cases out over time. It is mostly seniors, not children who are dying. The average of the first 10,000 deaths in Italy was 81, and most of these had multiple co-morbidities.

Economic recovery has to start very soon or the consequences of the treatment will be worse than the disease. Many minimally affected communities such as Logan County can open up a bit earlier. This must be done gradually, carefully, and follow sound public health principles. Those principles include social distancing, exceptional cleaning, and preventing spread to others by wearing masks.

There are many developing positive signs that will allow us to modify the current severe “stay at home order”. We must be able to test and follow those containment criteria of isolating people with the disease and modified quarantine of contacts. That allows for an “emergency brake” if case numbers ramp up.

Public Health Powers

These are powerful for public health officials including Ohio Director of Health Dr. Amy Acton and every health commissioner. They are used often in lesser circumstances “to protect the public’s health.”

The Governors Order (through Dr. Acton) essentially leaves it to local health districts for interpretation and enforcement. Dr Acton, however, through the attorney general can over-ride local jurisdictions.

This guidance document is a map to gradually open county businesses.

JUSTIFICATION

The following quotes are from the ODH Amended Director’s Stay At Home Order, April 2, 2020.

2. Non-essential business and operations must cease. “Minimum Basic Operations ... businesses... may also continue operations... where the business consists of a single person, so long as all safe workplace safety standards are met.”

12. b. Stores that sell groceries and medicine. “...Stores shall determine and enforce the maximum capacity of persons permitted in any store such that at (sic) 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;”

13. Minimum Basic Operations. "... employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, ...
a. The minimum necessary activities to ... preserve the condition of the business's ... equipment, ... or for related functions."

15. Social Distancing Requirements. For purposes of this Order, Social Distancing Requirements includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

a. Required measures. Essential Businesses and Operations and businesses engaged in Minimum Basic Operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including where possible:

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

17. Enforcement. "... the Director of Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order..."

The Amended Director's Order states that any businesses that are not "Essential Businesses and Operations" are required to cease all activities, "regardless of the nature of the service, [or] the function it performs." The states order comes directly from federal security guidelines and is too restrictive.

Many businesses not deemed essential as listed in the Director's Order could still function and comply with the spirit and intent of the Order by instituting policies and following proper public health procedures. They could still effectively prevent the spread of the virus while not exposing employees, patrons, and the general public while conducting business. Similarly, "essential" businesses must maintain the guidelines "to the extent possible".

The Proposed Plan

1. This guideline emphasizes the "protect the employees and public" part of the order and de-emphasizes the "essential business" aspect.
2. This allows for gradual opening of businesses. It is certain that their operations and processes will be changed for a year, perhaps forever.
3. Social distancing must be maintained as much as possible (the length of a hockey stick in Canada):
 - Masks must be worn in close work and business spaces.
 - Hand sanitizer and wipes must be available everywhere.
 - As much as is possible children should be separated from compromised. People over 65 will be strongly encouraged to maintain significant social distancing.
 - Coughs and sneezes must be covered.
 - Gatherings in spaces must be limited to maintain significant social distancing.
4. The Logan County Health District is asking businesses to write a simple one-page summary of how they will accomplish these protections, as well as a one-page drawing of their business' square footage available for people to occupy. As they wish to reopen, they will have to contact the health district so we can review the one-page statement and their diagram to compare it with their operation.

5. It is understood that some businesses will have a tough time meeting this request. In particular, restaurants are of great concern. Health districts have even more authority with food establishments as they license those establishments. There will be those who try to extend the envelope or won't comply. If this guideline is broken or even instituted too rapidly, the state and Ohio Attorney General can require the county to enforce the state's stricter rules. We will work tirelessly to see that this is done right and will prosecute those that do not comply.
6. Create a plan to meet these guidelines. Get adequate masks and hand sanitizer.

For small businesses with storefronts that rely on foot traffic into their operations to generate sales and for small independent contractors that go to or set up at the locations of their patrons to provide a service, the following criteria are to be met, when possible, in order to allow them to reopen while still providing for the protection of owners, operators, employees, patrons and the general public against infection from the COVID-19 virus:

1. Submit a one-page request to re-open a "non-essential business" with a description of the nature of the business including the maximum number of employees at work at one time and maximum number of patrons allowed in the building with proper six-foot spacing.
2. When a structure is involved, submit a diagram (drawn relatively to scale) that shows the usable area (where people and employees can physically walk (not including shelving, equipment and furnishings). The square footage of the usable area shall be divided by a six (6) foot social-distancing radius per employee and patron (six (6) foot social-distancing radius = diameter (12 feet) x .7854 = 9.42 square foot = roughly 9.5 square feet) to determine the actual COVID-19 occupancy for the business. (Example, 500 square foot structure – 200 square feet of unusable area = 300 square feet of usable area. Three employees plus 27 patrons = 30 people inside X 9.5 square foot per person = 285 square feet which is less than the usable area of 300 square feet so the required six-foot distancing between people can be met.)

Employees will be required to wear a mask while working; homemade cloth surgical masks are acceptable. Employers and businesses must be prepared to provide masks to those who present without them.

For small operators not working in a building, employees will be expected to wear masks when traveling in the same vehicle and to sanitize shared equipment and vehicles touch points between uses by different employees that are not already living in the same household.

Employers shall abide by all requirements for essential businesses as stated in section **19 COVID-19 Information and Checklist for Businesses/Employers** of the Amended Director's Order.

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