

Businesses & Workers Assistance Overview

DeWine Administration's aggressive steps to help Ohio businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19

On March 15, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health has issued a [Director's Order](#) closing all bars and restaurants in Ohio to in-house patrons. Restaurants with take-out and delivery options may continue to operate those services, even as their dining rooms are temporarily closed.

Enhanced Unemployment Aid For Ohioans

[Executive Order 2020-03D](#) broadens state policy to clarify that individuals who are quarantined during the emergency period are considered to be unemployed. This also applies to companies that determine they need to temporarily shut down.

The executive order waives the one-week waiting period normally required before individuals can begin receiving benefits, and it waives the requirement that they actively search for work while receiving benefits. In order not to penalize employers by increasing their future taxes, the cost of these benefits will be mutualized over time. In addition, the executive order waives penalties for late filing and payment for the duration of the emergency.

To apply for benefits, visit unemployment.ohio.gov anytime day or night, or call 1-877-644-6562 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Liquor Buyback

The Ohio Department of Commerce will immediately begin offering a liquor buyback option to support bars and restaurants. This will especially aid those establishments that have stocked up on high-proof liquor but now cannot serve it due to their closure to in-house patrons.

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

Support For Small Businesses & Non-Profits

The Ohio Development Services Agency is working this week to qualify Ohio for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. This program provides low-interest loans up to \$2 million in order to help businesses overcome the temporary loss of revenue during the state of emergency. Non-profit organizations in Ohio will also be eligible for low-interest loans through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

Businesses impacted by the current public health crisis can contact BusinessHelp@Development.Ohio.gov. Additional details about the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program is available at SBA.gov/Disaster.

Visit coronavirus.ohio.gov
or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH for answers

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