Ohio | Department of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt.Governor

Lance D. Himes, Interim Director

DIRECTOR'S ORDER

Re: Director's Amended Order Limiting County Fairs to Junior Fair Activities and Animal Exhibitions, with Exceptions

I, Lance D. 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 the spread of COVID-19 into the State of Ohio:

1. **County Fairs limited to Junior Fair Activities.** For fairs beginning on or after July 31, 2020, Agricultural Societies shall limit fairs to allow only participation by individuals who participate in either 4-H, FFA, or other youth organizations. The permitted activities include junior livestock shows as defined in Ohio Administrative Code Section 901-19-01(U) and youth exhibits to promote the agricultural interests and household manufacturing interests. Fair boards must work closely with local boards of health, and all fairs and exhibitions must comply with all Director of Health Orders in effect at the time of the fair or exhibition.

2. **Food Vendors permitted.** Fair boards are permitted to have food vendors on site during the junior fair activities but licensed concessions, including midway and carnival games, as defined in Ohio Revised Code 1711.11(A) are not permitted. Food vendors must follow requirements set forth in this Order. All food vendors must cease operations at 10:00 p.m. to be in compliance with the curfew established by this Order.

3. **Curfew established.** A 10:00 p.m. curfew is established for the fairgrounds during the period of the junior fair. Participants are expected to leave the fairgrounds by that time and if camping on site, must be back in their camper no later than 10:00 p.m. If a judging or auction event continues past 10:00 p.m., participants and spectators are expected to leave the fairgrounds no more than 30 minutes after the event concludes.

4. **Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of illness should take additional precautions.** People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including elderly people and those who are sick, are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. According to CDC, the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases as people grow older and those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

    a. People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;
    b. People who have serious heart conditions;
    c. People who are immune compromised;
    d. People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher);

e. People with diabetes;
f. People with Sickle Cell disease;
g. People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;
h. People with liver disease; and
i. Women who are pregnant.

5. **Facial Coverings (Masks).** In accordance with the Director's Order issued on July 23, 2020, all individuals in attendance at and participating in 4-H and FFA Junior Fair activities shall wear a facial covering at all times when:

   a. In any indoor location that is not a residence (camper): or
   b. Outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their family/household;

   The requirement to wear a facial covering does not apply when:

   a. The individual is under ten years of age;
   b. A medical condition including those with respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disability contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering;
   c. The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
   d. The individual is seated and actively engaged in consuming food or beverage

6. **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.** Businesses and Operations and businesses 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; and

      iii. **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.

7. **Sector Specific COVID-19 Information and Checklist for Activities Covered by this Order.** Participants, vendors and spectators are to take the following actions:

   a. Junior Fair Animal Exhibitions

      i. Each participant must perform a daily symptom assessment that should include taking temperature with a thermometer, monitoring for fever and watching for coughing or trouble breathing. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
      ii. Limit livestock exhibitions to 10 exhibitors in the show ring at one time.
      iii. The microphone must be sanitized between speakers or each speaker must have his/her own dedicated microphone.
      iv. Spectators and others in the exhibition area must follow current orders regarding mass gatherings and social distancing.
      v. Fair boards are responsible for drafting 2020 operational guidance specific to each county fair ground, with approval given by the local board of health.
      vi. It is recommended that, if possible, fair boards encourage and use technology to live stream livestock shows and other activities.

   b. Skillathon

      i. Ensure social distancing or install barriers, clean, and sanitize high-contact surfaces, and promote hand washing/sanitizing.
      ii. It is strongly recommended that, if possible, Skillathon be conducted virtually.
      iii. It is recommended that, if possible, participants should have individual, designated times for participation if there is a live Skillathon.
      iv. It is recommended that, if possible, designate different barns for different animals.

   c. Barns

      i. The fair barns shall be open as much as possible to allow good ventilation. This shall be true for all other buildings as well.
      ii. The building capacity guidance as set forth in this Order applies to the barns.

   d. Auctions

      i. Seating in the auction areas are limited to buyers and immediate family unless building capacity allows for more while following social distancing guidelines.
      ii. It is recommended that, if possible, have virtual auctions.
      iii. Where necessary to provide for adequate social distancing, auctions and other animal exhibitions may use the grandstands for that limited purpose.

   e. Non-Animal Exhibitions

i. Exhibitors must be spaced out within exhibition areas to adhere to six-foot social distancing guidelines.
ii. Exhibit areas must be thoroughly cleaned between participants.
iii. Fairs should consider, if possible, having virtual judging of exhibits, designating times for individual times for the judging of projects and establishing a drive-thru system for exhibitors to pick-up their pre-judging paperwork.

f. Volunteers

i. Educate volunteers on social distancing guidelines, handwashing, and safety measures.
ii. Ensure those in Junior and Senior Fair Board offices are following social distancing guidelines and have access to hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer.
iii. It is recommended that, if possible, utilize the least number of volunteers possible.
iv. It is recommended that, if possible, seek volunteers who are not in high risk groups.

g. Food Vendors

i. Food vendors must follow the Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/ Services Guidance. In addition:
    1. Food vendors must be positioned and set up to ensure at least six feet between parties in ordering and queuing areas. Visual 6 ft. ground markings are required to show proper distance for customers in queue.
    2. Dining or seating areas must be positioned to ensure at least six feet between parties.
    3. Self-service buffets and product samples are prohibited, but self-service beverage is permitted.
    4. Condiments will either be placed on the food item by the vendor or offered in individual packets or containers.

h. Campgrounds

i. Campground Operators and Visitors must comply with the standards outlined as applicable in the COVID-19 Responsible RestartOhio plan for Camping and Campgrounds. In addition:
    1. No compounding or clustering of groups is allowed on fair campgrounds.
    2. For the duration of the fair, local boards of health and fair boards will work together to ensure that all wastewater is properly disposed.
ii. It is recommended that, if and where possible, campers should be positioned so their entry doors, outdoor seating areas, etc. do not face each other.

i. Physical Contact

i. There will be no physical contact between judges, exhibitors, participants, buyers, sellers, i.e. congratulatory handshakes, hugs, high fives.
ii. Fairgoers must not pet or touch animals.
iii. It is recommended that, if possible, encourage any thank you notes/gifts to be sent to buyers and not given in person.

j. Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing

i. The fair must provide adequate handwashing/hand sanitizing stations that meet Ohio Department of Health and local boards of health recommendations in and around barns, exhibition facilities, restrooms, amusement ride areas, food vending units/areas, and all other fair facilities.
ii. The fair must provide adequate handwashing/hand sanitizing stations that meet Ohio Department of Health and local boards of health recommendations in and around barns, exhibition facilities, restrooms, amusement ride areas, food vending units/areas, and all other fair facilities.

k. Restroom/Showers

i. Ensure all toilets are functional.
ii. Frequently clean and sanitize public areas and restrooms with increased instances of cleaning and sanitation during peak usage times. Cleaning should be conducted using EPA-registered disinfectants, particularly on high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches.
iii. Restock supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands, every time the bathroom is cleaned.
iv. Provide hand sanitizer where water is not available.
v. Restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities will limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size and current social distancing guidelines.
vi. It is recommended that, if possible, post a cleaning schedule at each location.
vii. It is recommended that, if possible, install touch-free entry points at restrooms and other facilities.
viii. It is recommended that, if possible, install seat-cover dispensers and motion-sensing faucets, soap, and towel dispensing in restrooms and other facilities.

l. Ticket Sales

i. It is strongly recommended that, if possible, use advanced ticket sales.
ii. It is strongly recommended that, if possible, use cashless transactions at entrances, gates, and other areas where items and services are purchased.

m. Building Capacity

i. Fair Boards must work with their local health and/or fire department to establish building capacity in all facilities.
ii. Ensure a minimum of six feet between parties of participants, spectators, volunteers, fairgoers, and workers up to the maximum group size per state guidelines (currently 10) in queue lines, seating areas, and similar. If not possible, utilize barriers or other protective devices.
iii. Limit entrance and exit options when possible while still maintaining code regulations.
iv. Where possible establish a one-way directional flow of traffic through barns, exhibition buildings, and other fair facilities.
v. It is recommended that, if possible, for building capacity, follow the guideline of 50% of current permitted occupancy with the allowance for proper social distancing between occupants or in compliance with current Director of Health Orders.

n. Signage

i. Fair boards must work with local boards of health to develop proper signage regarding social distancing and handwashing/hand sanitizing.

o. Harness Racing

i. The general public in person spectators, including the junior fair participants and family members, will not be permitted to watch the races. All other Racing Commission guidance should be followed. Fair boards are encouraged to use technology to broadcast the races.

p. Confirmed Cases

i. Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
ii. Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.
iii. It is recommended that, if possible, work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
iv. It is recommended that, if possible, once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures.
v. It is recommended that, if possible, following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.

8. **Duration.** This Order shall be effective July 31, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and applies to all fairs that are scheduled to begin on or after July 31, 2020. This Order rescinds and replaces the County Fair Order signed on June 16, 2020. This Order remains in full force and effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies 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 15, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order to limit access to Ohio's jails and detention facilities.

On March 15, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order to limit the sale of food and beverages, liquor, beer and wine to carry-out and delivery only.

On March 15, 2020, the CDC issued Interim Guidance for mass gatherings or large community events, stating that such events that consist of 50 or more people should be cancelled or postponed.

On March 16, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order closing polling locations for the March 17, 2020 primary election.

On March 17, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order for the management of non-essential surgeries and procedures throughout Ohio.

On March 17, 2020 the Ohio Department of Health issued an Amended Director's Order to limit and/or prohibit mass gatherings and the closure of venues in the State of Ohio.

On March 19, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order closing hair salons, nail salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, body piercing locations, and massage therapy locations.

On March 21, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order closing older adult day care services and senior centers.

On March 21, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order closing family entertainment centers and internet cafes.

On March 22, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order that all persons are to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activity.

On March 24, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order that closed facilities providing child care services.

On March 30, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an Amended Director's Order that closed all K-12 schools in the State of Ohio.

On April 2, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an Amended Director's Order that all persons are to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activity.

On April 30, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued the Stay Safe Ohio Order that reopened businesses, with exceptions, and continued a stay healthy and safe at home order.

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.

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.

Mass gatherings (10 or more persons) increase the risk of community transmission of the virus COVID-19.

Accordingly, I hereby **ORDER** that fairs beginning on or after July 31, 2020, Agricultural Societies shall limit fairs to allow only participation by individuals who participate in either 4-H, FFA, or

other youth organizations. The permitted activities include junior livestock shows as defined in Ohio Administrative Code Section 901-19-01(U) and youth exhibits to promote the agricultural interests and household manufacturing interests. The Order remains in effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order. To the extent any public official enforcing this Order has questions regarding what services are prohibited 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.

July 30, 2020

Lance D. Himes
Interim Director of Health