COVID-19 Restaurant & Food Establishment Best Practices

Protecting Against COVID-19

Because Ohioans have stayed home and practiced social distancing, we have slowed the spread of the virus and flattened the curve.

As restaurants and food establishments begin to allow on-premise dining, it is now more important than ever that food safety and COVID-19 guidelines are followed to protect customers and employees.

- Restaurants and food establishments should continue to follow the regulations in the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code and standards developed by the Governor’s Restaurant Advisory Group.
  - Temporary outdoor structures that are utilized for additional seating must comply with the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code including building code compliance, sanitation, solid waste disposal, food and equipment storage, and dogs in outdoor dining areas.

- An elevated cleaning and sanitizing schedule for all surfaces that staff and customers contact should be created and executed.
  - Equipment and surfaces that are touched by individuals who have tested positive or displayed symptoms for COVID-19 should be disinfected. Food contact surfaces must be properly washed, rinsed, and sanitized after disinfection.
  - Restrooms should be routinely cleaned and sanitized, and hand sinks should be stocked with soap and paper towels or hand dryers.

- Employee safety training should continue, highly emphasizing proper handwashing, glove use, and proper hygiene practices.

- Food establishments should use mobile ordering and payments where possible to reduce hand contact.
  - The use of no-touch entrances and exits are suggested, as well as separate entrances and exits where possible.

- Instead of using containers for condiments to be used by multiple customers, restaurants should use single packets or cups.

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov
Local health departments should be consulted for additional guidance. For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

- Stay home except for work and other needs
- Wear a face covering when going out
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet from others
- Shop at non-peak hours
- Wash hands often with water and soap (20 seconds or longer)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Clean and disinfect "high-touch" surfaces often
- Don't work when sick
- Call before visiting your doctor

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