



## State Order Issues Mass Gathering Restrictions

Breaking down the [Order to Limit and/or Prohibit Mass Gatherings in the State of Ohio](#)

The order contains 9 points which describe the restrictions:

**1. Mass gatherings are prohibited.**

(The wording of this means with immediate effect.)

**2. Mass gatherings are defined as any event or convening that brings together 100 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. Parades, fairs, and festivals are included.**

(This means any space within a hotel or meeting venue environment. Note the inclusion of outdoor confined space. There is really no room or space that will allow you to skirt the ban – except for your restaurant, see #3.)

**3. Airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, or other spaces where 100 or more persons may be in transit, offices, schools, restaurants, factories, retail and grocery stores are exempted.**  
(The prohibition is unevenly applied by exempting some environments. It does note this exemption applies where it is “unusual for [persons] to be within arm’s length of one another” which seems to be at variance with the reality of some of the exempted venues.)

**4. Athletic events that exclude spectators ARE EXEMPT from the ban.**

(This means you CAN host athletic events and venues should consider this when discussing the order with those clients.)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

See links with daily updated information at [www.ohiolodging.com/COVID19](http://www.ohiolodging.com/COVID19)  
Contact Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association at 614-461-6462 or [info@ohla.org](mailto:info@ohla.org)



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5. Immediate family members, participants in athletic events and anyone necessary for such an event to take place are specifically permitted to attend them.

(OHLA is getting legal guidance on definition of immediate family, which generally includes parent/guardian, children, siblings, spouse, grandparents and grandchildren.)

6. The order contains an exemption for “members of the media.”

(According to the order, a media group could have an event, gathering or convention at your property.)

7. Religious gatherings, First Amendment protected speech, weddings and funerals are exempt from the ban.

(Church events and free speech are protected by the Constitution.)

8. The order is in “immediate effect” and remains in effect until the state of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 9 no longer exists, or the state cancels the order.

(There is no delayed implementation and no end date, no 30, 60, or 90 day limit.)

9. Local health departments are given power to additionally define mass gatherings.

(As more questions about specific scenarios arise, different interpretations could be made at the local level all across Ohio.)

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