



**Coronavirus  
COVID-19**

## State Order Issues F&B Restrictions Impacting Hotels

As of Sunday, March 15, 2020 the State of Ohio/Ohio Department of Health issued an “Order Limiting the Sale of Food and Beverages, Liquor, Beer and Wine to Carry-out and Delivery Only.”

[You can see the order in its entirety here.](#)

The order applies to hotel restaurant and hotel bar environments. There is no exemption for hotel restaurants or hotel bars, or other loophole. Beginning at 9:00 pm Eastern time Sunday, March 15, our industry must comply.

Provision of breakfast that involves seating is included. The order reads “no on-site consumption is permitted” and discusses the intent: “to minimize in-person interaction. Restaurants and bars increase and encourage talking, touching and other social interaction in an environment with a multitude of hard surfaces.”

Lines for carry-out should try to maintain social distancing of six feet between patrons “whenever possible.”

Carry-out alcohol is permitted for hotels with D5 permits, but alcohol must be in sealed containers. The State of Ohio is implementing a buy-back program for sealed liquor (see below.)

Note that “catering at weddings or funerals” IS EXEMPT. This seems to confirm our earlier advice that “weddings” as exempted under the order for 100-person events does include receptions. We will issue more information about the 100-person limit and cancellations tomorrow.

OHLA is sharing feedback about business impacts to the highest level of state government. We are working with others in the business community to seek financial relief in numerous ways.

**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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### **Liquor Buy-Back Program**

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control will allow a bar or restaurant to return unopened high proof liquor products purchased within the past 30 days as a way to provide economic assistance to bar and restaurant owners during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This courtesy also extends to those who may have obtained a temporary permit (F2) for an event, scheduled between March 12, 2020 and April 6, 2020, and that event is now canceled. Additional consideration will be given closer to April 6, 2020 if needed.

All a bar/restaurant or F2 permit holder needs to do is bring the unopened high proof liquor product back to the Contract Liquor Agency where they purchased the product. The Agency will call the Liquor Enterprise Service Center (LESC) for approval. Approval is immediate, but awareness of the return is necessary.

For questions or more information regarding the one-time high proof liquor buy back, please feel free to contact the LESC at 877-812-0013 or [OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioLiquorInfo@com.ohio.gov).

### **Ohio Unemployment Assistance**

The State of Ohio is expected to modify the unemployment compensation law to allow workers to more easily access unemployment benefits. The state will modify its policies to clarify that individuals working for companies that determine it is necessary to temporarily shut down operations due to the current emergency are considered to be unemployed.

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Individuals who are quarantined by a health professional or by their employer are also considered to be unemployed and will not be subject to requirements to actively seek work during the period of emergency.

Ohio currently has a one week waiting period before an individual can receive unemployment. The state will waive the waiting week so that workers eligible for unemployment benefits will receive them for the first week of unemployment.

See <https://jfs.ohio.gov/> and future OHLA notices for more developments.

### Federal Emergency Loans

Disaster Assistance from the federal Small Business Administration offers businesses assistance in the form of low-interest loans up to \$2 million to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue. Information and application information is available here <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

Watch for more information from OHLA. Contact the OHLA team or [joe@ohla.org](mailto:joe@ohla.org) with questions or concerns.

Share questions, concerns and new developments with any member of the OHLA team.

Contact OHLA:

By phone: 614-461-6462

By email: [info@ohla.org](mailto:info@ohla.org)

Executive Director, Joe Savarise: By phone: 614-832-7872

By email: [joe@ohla.org](mailto:joe@ohla.org)

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