

Updated May 5, 2020

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

For the week ending May 1, 2020

Throughout the week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine was joined by Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton M.D., MPH, and provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday, Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor and Dr. Acton announced Ohio's plan to responsibly restart Ohio's economy. The guiding principles of the Responsible RestartOhio plan are protecting the health of employees, customers, and their families, supporting community efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, and responsibly getting Ohio back to work.

Beginning May 1, 2020, all medically necessary procedures that do not require an overnight stay in a healthcare facility, or do not require inpatient hospital admission and minimizes use of personal protective equipment, may move forward. This includes regular doctor visits, well-care checks, well-baby visits, out-patient surgeries, imaging procedures, and diagnostic tests. Dental services and veterinary services may also proceed if a safe environment can be established.

Beginning on May 4, 2020, manufacturing, distribution, and construction businesses may reopen if these businesses can meet mandatory safety requirements for customers and employees.

Beginning on May 4, 2020, general office environments may reopen if these businesses can meet mandatory safety requirements for customers and employees.

Beginning on May 12, 2020, consumer, retail and services, may reopen if these businesses can meet mandatory safety requirements for customers and employees.

The following types of establishments are ordered to remain closed due to their increased risk of potential COVID-19 exposure:

- Schools and daycares
- Dine-in restaurants and bars (carry-out is still permitted)
- Personal appearance and beauty businesses
- Older adult daycare serveries and senior centers
- Adult day support or vocational rehabilitation services in group settings
- Entertainment, recreation, and gyms

For greater detail on the Responsible RestartOhio plan, or the types of businesses that must stay closed, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov/ResponsibleRestartOhio.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review continued...

On Tuesday, Governor DeWine announced that the state of Ohio will not require customers entering retail establishments wear face coverings. Wearing face coverings in public is still, however, strongly recommended.

Governor DeWine also noted that individual business owners could still choose to develop a business policy requiring face coverings for customers to enter their facilities.

Face coverings would still be mandated for employees unless wearing a face covering is not advisable by a healthcare professional, goes against industry best practices, or is not permitted by federal or state laws and regulations.

Governor DeWine also announced that he will form two separate advisory groups to develop best practices for reopening dine-in restaurants, barbershops, and salons.

The goal of these groups is to develop recommendations for these businesses that balance the need to protect the health of employees and customers as they reopen to the public.

On Wednesday, Governor DeWine announced that the state of Ohio has shipped 4.1 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to local emergency management agencies (EMA) across Ohio.

Although this is not the first shipment of PPE, this is the largest one-time distribution of PPE from the state of Ohio to the local EMAs in Ohio history.

Lt. Governor Husted reemphasized that face coverings are required for employers and employees while on the job. Exceptions for employers and employees include when:

- An employee in a particular position is prohibited by a law or regulation from wearing a face covering while on the job
- Wearing a face covering on the job is against documented industry best practices
- Wearing a face covering is not advisable for health purposes
- If wearing a face covering is a violation of a company's safety policies
- An employee is sitting alone in an enclosed workspace
- There is a practical reason a face covering cannot be worn by an employee

If any of these exceptions apply to a business or employee, written justification must be provided upon request.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review continued...

Governor DeWine also announced that nearly \$16 million in grant funding is now available for local law enforcement agencies, probation and parole offices, local courts, victim service providers, and adult, juvenile, and community corrections agencies.

This funding was awarded to the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, as part of the CARES Act and will support agencies in:

- Taking measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as purchasing cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment
- Taking measures to prepare for COVID-19 such as supporting proper planning, staffing, and communications to ensure effective operations and maintain the safety of criminal justice employees, citizens, and correctional populations
- Taking measures to respond to the spread of COVID-19 such as medical visits, hospitalizations, purchasing medical supplies, and securing alternative housing

OCJS will accept applications on a continual basis while funding is available, and there is no cap. For more information, please visit www.ocjs.ohio.gov.

Additionally, Governor DeWine reminded Ohio educators that they must ensure social distancing during any and all graduation ceremonies.

The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Health today issued the following suggestions for local schools and health departments:

- Virtual graduation ceremonies (preferred)
- Drive-in ceremonies where students drive to a designated location at a designated time to get their diplomas
- Outdoor ceremonies with 10 people or less who are socially distanced

Additional guidance can be found on the [Ohio Department of Education's](#) website.

Governor DeWine also stressed that any graduation parties cannot exceed 10 people in one space.

On Thursday, Governor DeWine announced that Ohio has provided more than 1.1 million items of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Ohio's state prisons.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) Director Annette Chambers Smith provided an overview of the steps taken within Ohio's state correction facilities to protect inmates and staff, as well as to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities.

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ODRC has implemented several safeguards for inmates, including increasing hygiene products and sanitation materials, offering cloth face coverings, and preventing intermingling between inmate cohorts.

Although ODRC's inmate population is the lowest it has been since 2006, social distancing measures have also been implemented by expanding housing units into prison chapels and gyms. Additionally, the Ohio National Guard has constructed tents at two facilities to further separate inmates. Members of the Ohio National Guard are also assisting with staffing and health care.

Mass testing at the Marion Correctional Institution revealed that approximately 96 percent of inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 were asymptomatic, further demonstrating that individuals can spread the virus without knowing that they are infected. Mass testing also took place at the Pickaway Correctional Institution and the prison medical center in Columbus. ODRC plans to test inmates in all state prison facilities who are symptomatic, as well as those who are being released early or at the conclusion of their full sentences. Any inmates who have been granted early release and test positive for COVID-19 will not be released until medically cleared.

ODRC has surged an ample amount of PPE to facility staff, and staff members at high-risk locations have also been offered the use of hotel rooms instead of going home or for showering before returning to their families.

On Friday, Governor DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health has issued a "[Stay Safe Ohio Order](#)." The new order, which incorporates the openings of businesses and services announced as part of the Responsible RestartOhio plan, will replace the previous "Stay at Home" order, which expires at 11:59 p.m. Friday night.

Governor DeWine announced the members of two separate advisory groups for recommendations and best practices when reopening dine-in restaurants, and personal service locations throughout the state.

Members of the two advisory groups were identified by relevant business association, along with Ohio Speaker of the House Larry Householder, Senate President Larry Obhof, House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, and Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko.

The restaurant advisory group will develop and recommend best practices for reopening dine-in restaurants throughout the state and balance the need to protect the health of employees and customers. A listing of individuals serving on the restaurants advisory group can be found [here](#).

The personal services advisory group will also develop and recommend best practices for reopening hair salons, day spas, nail salons, barber shops, massage therapy locations, and tanning facilities throughout the state. A list of individuals serving on the personal services advisory group can be found [here](#).

As of Friday afternoon, there are 18,743 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 1,002 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 3,634 people have been hospitalized, including 1,056 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review continued...

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Additionally, Governor DeWine made the following appointments this week:

- Chauncey A. Cochran of Newark (Licking Co.) has been reappointed to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors for a term beginning June 12, 2020, and ending June 11, 2023.
 - * David W. Johnson of Salem (Columbiana Co.) has been reappointed to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors for a term beginning June 12, 2020, and ending June 11, 2023.
 - Peggy Griffith of Deerfield (Portage Co.) has been reappointed to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors for a term beginning June 12, 2020, and ending June 11, 2023.
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Check out Governor DeWine's [video](#) featuring many Ohio businesses, who are making parts, new machines, and producing in-demand products related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dan Tierney: 614-644-0957

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Cemeteries Responsible Restart Guidance

On April 30, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Director Doctor Amy Acton signed the [Stay Safe Ohio Order](#). This order replaces the previous “Stay at Home” order and incorporates the opening of certain businesses and services as part of the Responsible Restart Ohio plan. This order remains in effect until 11:59 p.m. on May 29, 2020, unless the Director rescinds or modifies that order.

Essential business and operations, along with businesses restarting minimum basic operations, must continue to be proactive in ensuring social distancing requirements. The Order lays out the following steps to be taken by businesses where possible:

1. Designate six-foot distances for employees and customers;
2. Make hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
3. Implement separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
4. Offer online and remote access of facility hours and operations and informing customers on how best to reach the business.

We have also received questions concerning Memorial Day parades and celebrations. The Stay Safe at Home order specified certain businesses and operations that are to remain closed at this time. The full list can be found [here](#) but as you will see, parades are specifically listed. While the Stay Safe at Home Order is currently set to expire on May 29, 2020, what the future holds for Ohio in the coming weeks and months depends much upon Ohioans’ continued compliance with the Reopen Ohio Plan. The Division strongly recommends conferring with both your legal counsel and local health officials.

The most up-to-date guidance will continue to come from Governor DeWine’s press conferences, [Ohio Coronavirus](#), [OSHA](#), the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [World Health Organization](#).

Ohio Department of Commerce

Updated April 22, 2020

Cemetery/Crematory Guidance

Please click [here](#) to read updated Death Care guidance amid COVID-19 for funeral directors and embalmers.

“While this guidance speaks specifically to funeral directors and embalmers, we are cognizant of the fact that some of our cemetery operators also operate crematories and funeral homes. Beyond that, when fact and science-based guidance is available for those in the death care services, it only makes sense that those who facilitate interments will also benefit from this knowledge. To have a level of understanding and confidence that those handling decedents are following safe practices will assist in the confidence with which our cemetery operators fulfill their role.

Please feel free to reach out to us should you have any questions, and please also feel free to share this information with anyone who may not yet be on our email list. Please stay safe, stay healthy as we are #InThisTogetherOhio.”

Sincerely,
Anne M. Petit
Superintendent, Division of Real Estate & Professional Licensing

Updated April 10, 2020

Dear Woodland Families and Friends,

The staff, trustees and myself continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and implement changes as needed at Woodland to protect our staff, volunteers, visitors, and clients. Our Mausoleum, back gate, public restrooms and Administrative Office are now closed to the general public. We have cancelled public programs and tours through June 6th. We continue to assist families at their critical time of need by providing essential burial and cremation services. Our grounds remain open to the public between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM each day to provide a much-needed place of comfort, tranquility, and respite from the situation impacting us all. While it is wonderful to see so many people appreciating and utilizing Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum in this manner, we do need your assistance to continue this practice by following the rules below:

- Woodland is an active cemetery providing burial services each day. Please respect these families with privacy via distance.
- If visiting the cemetery, we ask that you park outside the gates to limit vehicle obstructions within the cemetery during this peak period of visitation.
- While walking, biking or driving on our roads, be aware of others including funeral processions and our grounds crew.
- Our operations require the use of heavy equipment including back-hoes, dump trucks, utility vehicles, lawn mowers, etc. so please be alert.
- Walk against traffic so you are aware of funeral processions, maintenance vehicles or others. Please stay to the side of the road and do not walk down the middle.
- If a funeral service is approaching, please show proper etiquette by moving off the road, stopping activity and waiting for the procession to pass by. Please remove hats and maintain silence until the procession has passed by.
- If driving in the cemetery, we ask that you not exceed 15 miles per hour.
- Please pick up and take with you any trash after your visit.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Please be aware there are no public restrooms.
- Maintain social distance of at least six feet from other visitors and staff you might encounter.

We wish to remain open to the public as long as approved by state and local government but we need cooperation from all visitors. Please follow the guidelines above so that Woodland can fulfill our essential mission of caring for the bereaved but also provide a beautiful and tranquil setting for all to enjoy. Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Stay safe and keep well,

Sean O'Regan
President and CEO
Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum



To: Area Funeral Directors
From: Gary Freytag, President and Chief Executive Officer
Re: COVID-19 Precautions
Date: April 9, 2020

The past several weeks have been an extremely difficult time for our community and the families we serve. We all are doing our best to react to shifting guidance from national/state governments as well as our professional associations. On behalf of Spring Grove, I would like to thank you for your professionalism and flexibility.

As you are aware, in an effort to follow "social distancing" guidelines, we made the following changes to our interment policies:

- No more than 10 family members can be present at the grave side
- SG employees are to maintain a safe distance as the family processes to the grave site
- All others must remain in their vehicles during the time of the interment service

Following this guidance has led to another issue – most services now do not have able bodied people to serve as pall bearers.

Under normal circumstances, Spring Grove would simply provide additional pall bearers. However, intermingling family members with our employees again violates the social distancing rules, putting our employees and family members at risk. Even if a service did have enough family pall bearers, Spring Grove employees cannot step in and help them safely load the casket onto the lowering device.

Therefore, effective immediately at Spring Grove Cemetery members of the Spring Grove staff must perform all pallbearing duties at the cemetery. No exceptions. This is a difficult but necessary decision. We realize that some family members will not understand. Please inform your families prior to arriving at the cemetery to eliminate any confusion and controversy. In the event we have a family member who insists on participating, we will not be able to perform the burial.

Ideally, this is how we would like it to work:

- When the procession reaches graveside, all cars but the hearse would stop
- The hearse would pull forward 15 to 20 feet to give our employees access
- Family members would remain in or near their cars
- Our employees would remove the casket, carry it graveside and place it the lowering device and lower the casket
- Once our employees have assured that the casket has safely been placed inside the vault, they will step away and the family can proceed to the gravesite
- The grave site will have minimal dressing and no chairs are permitted at this time

Please try to help your families understand. If we are unable to get this change in procedure implemented, we will have to eliminate all graveside services (no family members) until the social distancing guidance is relaxed.

Thank you again for your cooperation in these difficult times. If you have any questions, please call our interment department at (513) 853-6827.

Spring Grove Cemetery 4521 Spring Grove Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45232 (513) 681-PLAN (7526)

UPDATES FROM OCA CEMETERIANS – APRIL 7, 2020

I appreciate the update. It sounds like each cemetery can make their own rules. Setting of stones and unveilings are commencing since the weather has broken slightly. I am assuming the rules apply similarly for any gathering, but do we have to apply staffing to manage those gatherings. My question is do we have liability if we have a group in the cemetery that doesn't comply.

Larry Collins Mt Olive Cemetery

I am reaching out to discuss what your current procedures are regarding funerals that enter your grounds. Are you allowing a full processions with family at the graveside? Have you closed your gates completely? Direct burials only with just Funeral Directors?

We closed our gates to limit access to essential cemetery business only except for Sundays, when the gates are open from 8am – 6pm but the office is not open. Our office is open only by appointment. Families are still able to visit graves but they must make an appointment and receive a pass. We also have criteria about who gets or doesn't get a pass. We have instituted a rule limiting the number of family to the graveside to 10 not including FH personnel. We are trying to have our staff only be pall bearers as we have contacted Funeral Homes last week about this. Some comply and have discussions with their families first while some do not. This past Saturday we had 7 services and we were able to be pall bearers on 5.

Chris Sullivan - Manager of Burial Operations - Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum

Our gates are open but shortened hours 7:30 – 4:30. We have a lot of vehicle and foot traffic, but still manageable. Added additional staff to get everyone out at end of day. We are allowing only 10 people at the gravesite and on a case by case basis may allow up to 10 more in or at their cars while providing a cordless speaker for everyone to hear. Any witness of lowering must be from their cars. At this point allowing families to pall bearer. Excepting authorizations via email. Limiting family to 2- 4 in office to purchase space for at-need. Office is closed to non-essential business. Limited office and grounds staff per day and alternating staff to keep half safe in case someone becomes sick, so I don't have to quarantine everyone.

Marilyn M. Brandt | Vice President of Operations The Lake View Cemetery Association

Our gates are open, we have increased traffic right now but not unmanageable. Offices are closed except by appointment, most activity is done 'virtual', even Interment authorizations. We have written some pre needs virtually as well.

Limiting graveside attendance to 10 family members plus staff. We are now not setting up any graveside equipment because we are unable to clean it between services. Burial is not made until all attendees are in their cars so maint. staff is never exposed. There are several vault companies doing the same with their equipment.

Calling hours at FH is the same, 10 people in building at a time, we spread family out over several hours.

Kirk Roberts- American Cemetery Services