



Lakewood Business Owners,

Last night Governor DeWine addressed the state of Ohio calling us to recommit to safety practices. We are experiencing record high COVID-19 cases, and a surge in hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Below is the most important information from his press conference. It includes modifications to statewide mandates and information on the 1 – week evaluation for the potential closure of restaurants, bars and gyms:

New Mask Order

- Most businesses are doing a good job ensuring that COVID-19 safety guidelines are being followed. However, it is clear that there are some businesses where mask-wearing is lacking.
- We have a responsibility to employees and customers to ensure that Ohio's businesses are as safe as possible.
- Governor DeWine will ask the Department of Health to reissue the mask order that's been in place since July 23rd to include the following new provisions:
 - Each business will be required to post a Face Covering Requirement sign at each public entrance. [Here](#) is a printable sign that businesses can use.
 - Each business will be responsible for ensuring that customers and employees are wearing masks.
 - A new Retail Compliance Unit, led by the Bureau of Workers Compensation, will be inspecting to ensure retail compliance. A first violation of this order will bring about a written warning and a second violation will bring about closure of the store for up to 24 hours.

New Social Gathering Order

- There has been an order in place since April to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people.
- Despite the order, there is rampant spread of the virus from banquets, wedding receptions, and social gatherings following funerals. It's not the ceremonies, it is at the parties afterwards.
- A new order will place significant new restrictions on these social activities. Open congregate areas can no longer be open. The new order requires everyone to be seated and masked unless they are actively consuming food or drinks and prohibits things such as dancing and games.

Restaurants/Bars/Gyms

- If the trend continues and cases keep increasing, Governor DeWine has indicated that he will be forced to close restaurants, bars, and gyms one week from today (11/19).

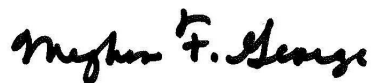
I am working with my team at city hall to revisit procedures and operations, shift schedules, PPE needs and work from home options. I am encouraging each of you to do the same. I understand that this does not look the same for each establishment or industry, but it is important to check in, ensure we are doing our part and working together. As the weather changes, we know that this becomes especially difficult with indoor operations, but I value the creativity and continued efforts shown across our business community to navigate this challenging and unprecedented time.

With the holidays around the corner, we do not want to see these additional closures. It is imperative that we place an emphasis on our local efforts to join the fight and help mitigate the spread.

As a reminder, the City of Lakewood has established a program for assistance with rent and payroll for your business visit <http://www.onelakewood.com/business-assistance/> for more details.

Please feel free to reach out to me and my team anytime.

Stay well,



Mayor Meghan F. George

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