



## Bar and Restaurants Closures FAQ's

The Division of Liquor Control (Division) would like to share some information for permit holders regarding Governor Mike DeWine's orders for Ohio's bars and restaurants to cease dine-in operations until further notice in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus.

### Can I return high proof liquor to an Ohio Contract Liquor Agency?

- Yes. The Division has outlined a process to ease the burden on permit holders and allow returns of unopened high proof liquor. This courtesy also extends to those who may have obtained a temporary permit (F-2) for any now-cancelled events scheduled between March 12 and April 6. If large gatherings are banned beyond April 6, the Division will continue to allow those F-2 permit holders to return unopened product purchased for the event. Permit holders should fill out [this form](#) and then take the form and the product back to the Agency where the product was purchased. Refunds will be processed by the Division and issued by JobsOhio Beverage System within several days of the return.

### Can I return beer/wine to a distributor?

- As recommended by the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association, the Division has approved the pickup and future replacement of beer, wine and/or mixed beverages from a retailer, at the distributor's discretion. The product must be intact in its original packaging and purchased within the last 30 days for a major event (i.e. Opening Day, St. Patrick's Day, NCAA, etc). You must return the same amount of product you order. For example, if you pick up five kegs of beer, upon re-opening, the retailer must purchase five kegs of beer.
- This temporary alteration in the return policy is also subject to the federal Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) restriction. It is our understanding the TTB views only products purchased for cancelled events due to the COVID-19 crisis to be exempt from the normal restrictions on consignment sales. TTB has stressed the voluntary nature of accepting these returns.
- Future guidance from the TTB may also be forthcoming on this matter.

### How can I legally deliver sealed beer/wine to go?

- Permit holders may sell beer, wine, and prepackaged mixed beverages in their original sealed containers for off-premises consumption in accordance with the privileges granted under their permit. The permit holder or their employee may deliver that product.
- H-class permit holders may also deliver alcohol beverage products but cannot sell them.
- The permit holder is responsible for verifying that they don't sell to underage persons.
- Private clubs issued the D-4 liquor permit do not have the ability to sell alcohol beverages for off-premises consumption. Therefore, they cannot sell any alcohol to go.

**Are D-4 permits and gentlemen's clubs included with the shutdown since clubs were not mentioned?**

- Yes, all liquor permits, including D-4 permits, are included in the Governor's directive to cease sales of alcohol beverages for on-premises consumption.

**Are manufacturing permits and tasting rooms included with the shutdown?**

- Yes, all liquor permits, including manufacturing permits, are included in the Governor's directive to cease sales of alcohol beverages for on-premises consumption.

**Are patrons allowed inside the premises to pick up food or alcohol or utilize curbside/delivery?**

- Yes, customers may pick up their food or alcohol on premises, at the drive-thru or through delivery. D-4 permits cannot sell for carry-out or delivery of alcohol beverages.

**What are the penalties for the sale of alcohol for on-premises consumption and who enforces if the Order is not followed?**

- An order was issued prohibiting the sale of beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor for on-premises consumption and restricting all alcohol sales to those in sealed containers for off-premises consumption, effective 9 p.m. March 15.

Permit holders should know such sales are now prohibited and failure to comply with the order may subject a permit holder to administrative action against their liquor permit, which could include emergency order of suspension, citation, rejection of a renewal or transfer application, or revocation.

**Who do I contact for complaints regarding bars and restaurants for non-compliance?**

- The Division's Investigative Service Section is coordinating with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit to investigate any violations of this order. If you have any questions regarding this order, or would like to report a violation, you may contact the following individuals:
  - Contact information for the Division of Liquor Control's Investigative Services Supervisors and Legal Counsel:
    - Frank Chung, Investigative Services Eastern Ohio Region, 614-546-8492, [Frank.chung@com.state.oh.us](mailto:Frank.chung@com.state.oh.us)
    - Shaun Powers, Investigative Services Western Ohio Region, 614-546-5658, [Shaun.powers@com.state.oh.us](mailto:Shaun.powers@com.state.oh.us)
    - Andre Smith, Investigative Services Eastern and Western Regions, 614-419-9876, [Andre.Smith@com.state.oh.us](mailto:Andre.Smith@com.state.oh.us)
    - Dominic Panzera, Legal Counsel, Ohio Division of Liquor Control, 614-644-2489, [Dominic.Panzera@com.state.oh.us](mailto:Dominic.Panzera@com.state.oh.us)
  - Contact information for the Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit District Supervisors and Legal Counsel:
    - George Pitre, Akron AIC, 330-497-5411, [gjpitre@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:gjpitre@dps.ohio.gov)
    - Erik Lockhart, Athens AIC, 740-357-5840, [eglockhart@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:eglockhart@dps.ohio.gov)
    - Adam Johnson, Cincinnati AIC, 513-942-0610, [asjohnson@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:asjohnson@dps.ohio.gov)
    - Greg Croft, Cleveland AIC, 216-898-1870, [gacroft@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:gacroft@dps.ohio.gov)
    - Sam Love, Columbus AIC, 614-644-2413, [hslove@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:hslove@dps.ohio.gov)
    - Sawn Tatter, Toledo AIC, 419-866-9907, [STatter@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:STatter@dps.ohio.gov)

- Michelle Thourot, Central Office AIC, 614-644-2415, [mlthourot@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:mlthourot@dps.ohio.gov)
- Anne Vitale, Associate Legal Counsel, Department of Public Safety, 614-387-0414, [apvitale@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:apvitale@dps.ohio.gov)

**Who should I call to get answers about the Mass Gathering Health Order?**

- [Contact your local Health Department.](#)
- Call the COVID-19 hotline at 833-427-5634 or 833-4-ASK ODH.
- Call the Governor's Constituent Services line at 614-466-3555

All Ohio liquor laws/rules available via [the Division of Liquor Control website](#) under "Resources."

As a reminder, many of the Division of Liquor Control staff will be teleworking during this public health emergency. The Division asks for your patience as staff respond to your needs through the remote network. As always, you may also email [web.liqr@com.state.oh.us](mailto:web.liqr@com.state.oh.us) with any questions.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE: This document is subject to change as new information becomes available\*\***