



## Department of Health

**Mike DeWine**, Governor  
**Jon Husted**, Lt. Governor

**Stephanie McCloud**, Director

### **THIRD AMENDED DIRECTOR'S ORDER**

#### **Re: Third Amended Director's Order on the Opening of Senior Centers**

I, Stephanie McCloud, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13, to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, hereby ORDER the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio:

1. Since the release of the last Order, millions of vaccinations have been administered nationwide to older adults, including the participants and staff of senior centers. These vaccines have been shown to help prevent COVID-19 infection. In support of Ohio's continued commitment to providing opportunities for social interaction to improve overall health and well-being, this Order shall replace all prior Orders regarding participation at senior centers (hereafter centers). Accordingly, it shall permit access to personnel who are necessary for the operations of the centers.
2. Personnel who are necessary for the operations of the centers include, but may not be limited to staff, volunteers providing core services, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, contractors conducting critical on-site maintenance, and governmental representatives and regulators and their contractors. For purposes of this Order only, "employees" shall include volunteers and may also be referred to herein as "staff."
3. All individuals and personnel must be screened for COVID-19 each time they enter the center. Screening guidance is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as from ODH. This Order does not apply to exigent circumstances, to emergency medical services, first responders, and similarly situated individuals.
4. Centers shall have as few points of entry as possible. ODH recommends that centers, where possible, have a designated entry point. This does not apply to emergency ingress or egress of centers.
5. Centers shall maintain a log of staff and participants that includes, at a minimum, name and contact information. The log shall be retained in accordance with state record retention requirements and made available upon request to the appropriate local or state health authorities.

## 6. Center Planning:

- A. Centers shall carefully consider all implications for participant physical and mental well-being when determining how to facilitate center operations.
- B. Centers shall evaluate all the following as a part of developing a comprehensive plan to facilitate, implement, and oversee center operations:
- Case status in surrounding community;
  - Case status in the center(s);
  - Staffing levels;
  - Access to adequate testing for participants and staff;
  - Personal protective equipment supplies; and
  - Local hospital capacity.
- C. Centers shall be in substantial compliance with testing requirements in accordance with the following:
- Staff and participants are encouraged to become fully vaccinated, if feasible. Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.
  - While not required, centers are encouraged to routinely test unvaccinated staff and participants, if feasible. Centers may also encourage unvaccinated staff and participants to be tested on their own prior to coming to the center. Unvaccinated refers to a person who does not fit the definition of fully vaccinated, including people whose vaccination status is not known for the purposes of this Order.
  - Centers shall have a strategy in place for testing staff and participants, regardless of vaccination status, with known or suspected COVID-19 exposure or signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- D. Centers shall develop operations policies consistent with the requirements of this Order. Policies shall be made available upon request to participants, visitors, and any representative of the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) and ODH.
- E. Centers shall remind and educate participants and visitors about the risks of the spread of COVID-19 and the appropriate safety measures to take to protect themselves according to the CDC [Considerations for Community-Based Organizations](#).

7. **General Participation Requirements:** In addition to all of the other requirements herein, centers shall adhere to all relevant CDC [Considerations for Community-Based Organizations](#), including but not limited to: facilitating social distancing, handwashing, and isolating staff and participants who have COVID-19 symptoms while at the center.

- A. Participants and staff are required to wear masks at all times, except when actively eating. Masks should cover nose and mouth, fit snugly and have multiple layers. Additionally, individuals who have difficulty wearing a mask, including people with some disabilities and people with dementia, may participate so long as they are fully vaccinated.
  - B. Centers shall cohort individuals or create participant pods to minimize the risk of disease spread and adverse health outcomes. Cohort refers to gathering participants as a group that will eat and participate in activities and services together.
8. **Congregate Activities and Transportation:** In addition to all of the other requirements herein, centers shall adhere to all relevant CDC [Considerations for Community-Based Organizations](#), including but not limited to: food service, meetings, gatherings and performances, and prioritizing outdoor activities over indoor activities.
- A. Centers shall take appointments and sign-up participants for activities ahead of time, unless appointments are not feasible due to emergent or unique circumstances.
  - B. Centers may offer field trips and excursions for a limited number of attendees in line with the intended destination and limit activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. Large attendee excursions shall not be offered.
  - C. Centers are encouraged to maintain, and in some cases enhance, virtual options to conduct group activities (e.g., music, games, socialization). Examples include FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom.
  - D. Transportation of participants is permitted. Transportation providers shall adhere to the Ohio Department of Transportation Guidance found at [COVID-19 Guidance for Ohio Public Transit and Human Service Transportation Agencies](#).

Accordingly, this Order shall replace all prior Orders regarding Ohio’s Adult Day Care Services and Senior Centers. This Order shall be effective immediately and remain in full force and effect unless the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order at a sooner time and date.

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Stephanie McCloud, Director of Health

May 4, 2021  
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Date