



## **DIRECTOR'S ORDER**

### **Re: Director's Order that Reopens Fairs and Animal Exhibitions, with Exceptions**

I, Stephanie McCloud, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 to “make special orders...for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases” **Order** the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the State of Ohio:

- 1. Preamble:** While COVID-19 made it impossible to hold fairs and animal exhibitions in the way we have in the past, they are of such importance to communities that every effort should be made to reopen them safely. The sacrifices and incredible efforts that Ohioans have undertaken, now make it possible to begin to lift the mandatory requirements and restrictions that were needed during the initial phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The adjustment of these orders is able to proceed based upon the facts and the science existing at this time in Ohio, however if the situation continues to improve, then more restrictions will be lifted, and if the situation deteriorates additional targeted restrictions will need to be made. While government can set the baseline, it should always be understood that these orders set forth the minimum acts that must be taken and if people do more than the minimum to act safely, it will benefit everyone.
- 2. Fairs and Animal Exhibitions to reopen.** Fairs and animal exhibitions are permitted to reopen within the State so long as all safety standards are met and comply with the guidance in this Order and any other applicable Director of Health Orders. Fair boards and local communities should work closely with local boards of health. Businesses and operations shall continue to comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Order, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public when possible, including, but not limited to, when anyone is standing in line. Each fair and animal exhibition shall designate an on-site compliance officer, for all hours of operation, whose responsibility is to ensure compliance with the Order. The designated individual shall be the contact person for the local health department and law enforcement agency which has jurisdiction.
- 3. Facial Coverings (Masks).** Masks are required to be worn at all times, by all people on the fairgrounds unless they are actively eating or drinking. The Director’s Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio, signed July 23, 2020, remains in effect and must be followed at all fairs and animal exhibitions.
- 4. Social Distancing Requirements.** For purposes of this Order, Social Distancing Requirements include maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands. Where possible, designate with signage, tape, or by other means

six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance. Have hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers.

**5. Guidance for Fairs and Animal Exhibitions.** Fairs and animal exhibitions, whether currently open or reopening, are to take the following actions:

- a. Large gatherings
  - i. Organizers and managers should conduct the event in a manner that discourages the large gathering of people on the midway, in buildings or on other parts of the grounds. Where possible, the organizers and managers should provide one-way traffic in buildings or other areas, where doing so will help people maintain social distancing.
- b. Exhibitions, competitions, and auctions
  - i. Participants, spectators, and judges shall, when possible, maintain a distance of six feet between each other.
  - ii. Family members of the participants shall have priority in the viewing area.
  - iii. Each family should group together in the viewing area, and there should be six feet between families.
  - iv. Microphones shall be sanitized after each person uses the microphone.
  - v. Organizers should consider the use of a virtual exhibitions, competitions, and auctions, although this is not required. Priority seating shall be family members of participants and buyers at auctions.
- c. Grandstands
  - i. The maximum number of spectators permitted to be in attendance at an outdoor grandstand shall be thirty percent of the capacity of the grandstand.
  - ii. The maximum number of spectators permitted to be in attendance at an indoor grandstand shall be twenty-five percent of the capacity of the grandstand.
  - iii. A distance of six feet should be maintained between seated spectators with the exception of family members who are encouraged to sit together.
- d. Signage
  - i. All fairs and animal exhibitions shall post clearly visible signage at all entrances to each of their grounds requiring all persons entering to wear a facial covering. The text shall state that all persons are required to wear a facial covering and engage in social distancing at all times in or on the fair or animal exhibition grounds. Such signage is available for download from <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart->

ohio/Posters-and-Signs/ Any fair or animal exhibition requiring assistance printing signage should contact the Ohio Department of Health Call Center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

- ii. Signs shall be maintained at all entrances to the fair, at grandstands, in restrooms, barns, near sanitizing stations, and other areas with high visibility or likelihood for congregation.

e. Buildings

- i. The buildings accessible to the public shall be open as much as possible to allow good ventilation, including opening doors and windows.

f. Campgrounds

- i. Campgrounds should follow standards outlined in the Director's Order that Reopens Campgrounds, with Exceptions, signed May 20, 2020.

g. Food

- i. Areas should be designated for tables and seating for food and drink consumption. The tables should be six feet apart and seat no more than 10 persons per table. If possible, food and drink should be consumed while seated.

h. Sanitation

- i. In addition to the regular restrooms, sanitation stations shall be provided at convenient places throughout the facilities and grounds. These stations shall include sanitizer. These must be placed near food concessions and in barns. These must be maintained so that hand sanitizer is always available.

i. Physical Contact

- i. All patrons, participants, and judges should avoid physical contact with others and should refrain from shaking hands, "high 5's," etc.

j. Harness racing

- i. The Fair must follow guidelines established in the "Protocols for a Safe Return to Racing Revised Starting June 19, 2020" posted by the Ohio State Racing Commission.

k. Congregating

- i. Organizers, managers, staff, volunteers, exhibitors, vendors, patrons, and participants must avoid gathering in groups and attempt at all times to maintain social distancing. Each individual should perform a daily health assessment and stay home if you have a fever, cough, or other signs of possible corona virus.

l. Amusement rides

- i. Provide markings or signage to indicate social distancing in lines.
- ii. Where a box office/will call window does not already have a glass partition between ticketing staff and patrons, install a physical barrier to maintain social distancing.
- iii. It is recommended that, if possible, contact-free ticketing be utilized to eliminate box office congestion.
- iv. Frequent cleaning of high-touch areas (railings, seats, and flat surfaces).
- v. Make hand sanitizer readily available.
- vi. Amusement rides shall comply with all orders of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

**6. Prior Orders.** The Director's Amended Order Limiting County Fairs to Junior Fair Activities and Animal Exhibitions, with Exceptions, signed July 30, 2020, is rescinded.

**7. Duration.** This Order shall be effective immediately and remains in full force and effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order.

Accordingly, I hereby ORDER that fairs and animal exhibitions may reopen or continue to operate as set forth in this Order. This Order shall remain in effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order. To the extent any public official enforcing this Order has questions regarding what services are prohibited under this Order, the Director of Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order.



Stephanie McCloud, Director

March 11, 2021

Date