

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 GUIDANCE

GUIDANCE RELATED TO THE JULY 8, 2020 COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURE ORDER

This document is intended to answer frequent questions that the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has received concerning its recent COVID-19 Control Measure Order issued on July 8, 2020. The Health Department is unable to answer individual questions. If your concern or question is not directly addressed by this document, consider the intent of the order which is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among people.

For businesses seeking additional guidance, consider consulting an attorney or legal counsel for specific interpretations.

A full copy of the order is available [here](#) and is posted on the main COVID webpage at <https://bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID INFORMATION

What metrics are taken into account when initiating or terminating particular public health interventions like travel quarantine recommendations, business closures, gathering size restrictions, and/or activity restrictions?

A wide set of metrics are considered including but not limited to: the number of new cases per day; the change in number of new cases; the percent of those tested who have a positive test; the number of new and currently hospitalized patients; number of patients in the ICU; and bed and ventilator availability in the county. The vast majority of this data is available on the county COVID-19 dashboard: <https://bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19>.

Specific public health interventions are based on information obtained during the case investigations; in particular, information which is provided related to likely sources of exposure.

Is data available for county-wide vs. city/municipality/neighborhood?

The county COVID-19 dashboard has information by City of Pittsburgh neighborhood and county municipality.

What is the county doing to increase access to COVID-19 testing?

The ACHD is working with healthcare providers in the region to prioritize who is tested and to increase testing capacity among providers.

What if residents are having trouble accessing testing via their primary care physicians or health care providers?

Residents may need to wait to get an appointment for testing at some locations listed on the ACHD's testing locator page. We are working to increase access to testing in the county.

What happens to the public health orders issued on July 2 and June 28?

The public health orders issued July 2 and June 28 are rescinded and replaced by the order issued July 8, 2020. The rescission and replacement occur at 12:01 AM on Friday, July 10, 2020.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

How do I report a food establishment who is not complying with this order?

Reports to the Health Department may be made:

- Online through the Allegheny County Support Center at <https://callcenter.alleghenycounty.us/>. Once there, select "Request a Service," then "Health Department," then "Food," then "Food Complaint." Users will be asked to create an account if they wish to receive updates on the complaint, but concerns may also be submitted anonymously. Complaints can still be monitored using the confirmation number provided once submitted online.
- By calling 412-350-INFO (412-350-4636)

Does my food establishment need a permit from the Allegheny County Health Department to allow outdoor dining if such seating is not currently offered?

All food facilities wishing to establish outdoor dining must follow any local and state ordinances regarding outdoor dining and alcohol consumption.

How many people are food establishments allowed to seat outside?

Food establishments are not allowed to exceed their ACHD permit capacity, which is calculated primarily by the number of seats. This is done to encourage COVID-19 safety precautions and to assure food safety is maintained. All food establishments must adhere to occupancy restrictions outlined in the state guidance for the restaurant industry and any local ordinances or occupancy guidelines.

Is a food establishment allowed to provide outdoor seating if customers must walk through the interior of the building?

Customers who need to walk indoors to access to outdoor seating should be directed to a pathway and monitored to maintain distancing between customers. Customers are required to wear a mask whenever walking through the facility.

What is meant by outdoor dining? Can a food establishment provide seating on a porch?

Any outdoor dining space must have at least three completely open sides and be no part of the indoor footprint. Overhead protection is permissible.

Are outdoor dining spaces closed at 11 p.m. or are people no longer to be served after 11 p.m.?

Use of outdoor dining spaces is prohibited after 11 p.m. Diners must be finished with their drinks or meals. Takeout can be provided but must be consumed away from its place of sale. Diners are not allowed to consume takeout food in outdoor dining spaces after 11 p.m.

Does the three-drink maximum apply to non-alcoholic beverages?

The three-drink maximum applies only to alcoholic beverages.

Is smoking allowed in outdoor dining areas?

The use of any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes, is not allowed in outdoor dining areas.

How does the order apply to golf courses?

Outside seating areas may be utilized for dine-in services, while adhering to COVID safety guidelines and permit capacities. All indoor dining areas are prohibited from operating.

CASINO

Is the casino open?

The order issued on July 8, 2020, rescinded the previous orders issued, including the July 2, 2020, order which had closed the casino. The casino is allowed to resume operations but dining, beverage service and smoking is not allowed inside the facility. Masks must be worn at all times in the casino and inside all businesses.

Is smoking allowed inside the casino?

The order bans the use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in outdoor dining facilities and inside the casino. The universal masking order issued July 1, 2020, by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, requires face coverings to be worn in any indoor location where members of the public are generally permitted and does not make any exemptions for smoking.

GATHERINGS, EVENTS, CATERING

Do weddings have a restrictive capacity?

The order bans indoor events and gatherings of more than 25 people and all outdoor events and gatherings of more than 50 people.

Can food and alcohol be served inside banquet halls for weddings and catered events?

Indoor dining is prohibited under this order. Outdoor dining is allowed for weddings and catered events.

Are farmers' markets allowed to operate under this order?

Farmers' markets are allowed to operate under this order provided they follow previous COVID-19 safety guidance (ACHD guidance is [here](#)). Any outdoor dining at a farmers' market is subject to this order. Capacity restrictions must be in place to allow for proper distancing.

Are businesses or places of employment considered events or gatherings under this order?

Businesses and places of employment that do not offer food service or are not used as venues for events or gatherings are not subject to this order but are required to follow orders on worker and workplace safety from the state Department of Health.

Are youth, intermural and amateur sports leagues subject to this order?

All practices and games are subject to the event and gathering restrictions in this order.

Does the July 8, 2020, order impact permitted swimming pools/spas (includes community pools, condos, apartments, country clubs, wading pools, gyms, camps, etc.)?

The July 8, 2020, order does not apply to pools; however, the state's orders and guidance on pools still apply. Any food service at a pool is subject to this order.

OTHER ORDERS AND GUIDANCE

Orders and guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and governor remain in effect. These orders include but are not limited to:

- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, issued July 1, 2020](#)
- [Guidance for Businesses in the Restaurant Industry Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees and the Public, issued May 27, 2020 and updated June 17, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses, issued May 4, 2020 and updated July 1, 2020](#)
- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Public Health Safety Measures for Businesses Permitted to Maintain In-person Operations, issued April 15, 2020](#)
- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Building Safety Measures, issued April 5, 2020](#)