

Oh Department of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director, Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

AMENDED DIRECTOR'S STAY AT HOME ORDER

Effective April 6, 2020 at midnight

[The parts pertinent to Bethlehem Lutheran Church are included below.]

Re: Director's Order that All Persons Stay at Home Unless Engaged in Essential Work or Activity

I, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in RC. 3701.13 "to make special orders... preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases" Order the following to prevent the spread of into the State of Ohio:

1. **Stay at home or place of residence.** With exceptions as outlined below, all individuals currently living within the State of Ohio are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in this Order. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times and as much as reasonably possible, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in this Order. **All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities**, Essential Governmental Functions, or to participate in Essential Businesses and Operations, all as **defined below....**
4. **Prohibited and permitted travel.** Only Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined herein, are permitted....
5. **Leaving the home for Essential Activities** is permitted....
6. **Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of illness** should take additional precautions....
12. **Essential Businesses and Operations.** For the purposes of this Order, Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, **and the following:**
 - a. CISA (Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency) List....
 - b. Stores that sell groceries and medicine....
 - c. Food, beverage, and licensed marijuana production and agriculture....
 - d. Organizations that provide charitable and social services....

- e. **Religious entities.** Religious facilities, entities and groups and religious gatherings, including weddings and funerals. Wedding receptions are subject to the ten-person limitation... Weddings and funerals are not subject to the ten-person limitation...

15. **Social Distancing Requirements.** For purposes of this Order, Social Distancing Requirements includes 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.

- a. **Required measures.** Essential Businesses... must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including Where possible:
 - i. Designate six-foot distances....
 - ii. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products... readily available...
 - iii. Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations....
 - iv. Online and remote access....

<https://www.nbc4i.com/community/health/coronavirus/gov-dewine-extends-ohios-stay-at-home-order-until-may-1/>

Conclusions based on the 4/6/20 order:

- Churches are not required to close.
- Being open is not violating a government order.
- Travel is permitted to attend a church.
- Church services are not subject to the ten-person limitation.
- Churches "as much as reasonably possible" must "maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members" (section 1).
- Bethlehem is doing everything possible to function in accordance with the order above.
- Only those who are healthy and feel completely comfortable attending should attend.