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## State Orders Bars, Restaurants Closed During Outbreak

*\*We will share a copy of the order with you once it becomes available\**

**March 15, 2020**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Gov. Mike DeWine on Sunday ordered bars and restaurants – with the exception of carryout and delivery business – to close effective 9 p.m.

The effort is the latest step the state has taken toward mandating "social distancing" as an effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

The governor has already banned mass gatherings of 100 people or more and taken other steps to prevent large gatherings of people.

The order will be signed by Health Director Amy Acton Sunday, the governor said at a Statehouse news conference.

"This is a very, very crucial time," he said. "Delay means more people will die. Literally every day we delay, the data clearly shows more people will die."

The governor said he is aware that the order will be devastating for many small businesses, and will result in many Ohioans losing their jobs. He said, however, the step is essential.

At 2 p.m., the state reported a total of 37 confirmed cases and 361 people being tested. A total of 140 people had tested negative.

Those numbers marked an increase from 26 confirmed cases Saturday, along with 264 people under investigation.