



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Governor DeWine Orders Ohio Bars & Restaurants to Close**

*Assistance announced for businesses and workers impacted by restrictions.*

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)— Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has issued a [Director's Order](#) that will close all Ohio bars and restaurants to in-house patrons, effective at 9:00 p.m. today, March 15, 2020. Restaurants with take-out and delivery options will still be able to operate those services, even as their dining rooms are temporarily closed.

The order was issued ahead of the St. Patrick's Day holiday, which commonly would attract large groups of people to bars and restaurants across the state. This would make "social distancing" impossible in many circumstances. This is known by healthcare providers to be among the most effective ways to slow the spread of the disease, due to the high rate and speed of transmission in COVID-19.

"Our goal is for everyone to get through this," said Governor Mike DeWine. "Our hope is that next St. Patrick's Day, everyone will be there and that they'll have the opportunity to live their life and live their American dream. But, if people are not around, they can't do that."