

Order of the State Health Officer Suspending Certain Public Gatherings Due to Risk of Infection By COVID-19 (issued 03/19/2020)

Q & A – All answers are subject to being updated as this event continues.

1. Are hospital dining areas included?

A: Hospital dining areas are excluded from the order provided they have their own social distancing plan.

2. What about dining areas in factories?

A: The factory should maintain social distancing for seating employees, a consideration is that it's not usually open to the general public and an infectious person has been close to co-workers for an entire shift or probably several shifts by the time symptoms present.

3. A YMCA has announced that they're starting a day care for first responders. Does the county HD investigate this?

A: This The order excludes some childcare centers operated for the exclusive benefit of essential employees. Section 4(b) of the order describes allowable child care centers.

4. Does this apply to hotel dining areas and continental breakfast areas?

A: Yes.

5. A restaurant wants to sell fresh (not frozen) the raw meat they have on hand, with customers picking up the purchase and leaving. Can they do this?

A: Yes. This is equivalent to buying from a grocery store.

6. For buffet restaurants, can a customer come in, make a to-go plate and leave?

A: Yes, provide social distancing between customers and customers and staff, no seating is allowed.

7. In the counties under the order, can patrons buy a take-out meal and sit on a restaurant's patio to eat?

A: No. The Order of the Health Officer specifies no on-premise dining. This term is defined in the rules and includes outside dining areas under the control of the permit holder, also the intent of the order is to prevent congregating in close quarters.

8. A "cigar bar" also has a bar area with a Category 2 food permit and is requesting to be excluded from the order because of the permit category and they use pre-mix for making drinks. They have a seating area. Does the dining ban apply to them?

A: Yes, the determining factor is having an inside dining area, not the permit category.

9. A hotel wants to completely close for three weeks; it's costing more in utilities than they're making from bookings. Do they have to reapply for a hotel permit and food permit if they completely close?

A: No, the permit runs for the year unless suspended or revoked by the health department.

10. Bingo halls have asked if the ban applies to them if they cancel food service operations.

A: Yes, the Order of the State Health Officer Section 1 applies to any gathering of 25 or more people.

11. Does the Order of the State Officer require hair and nail salons to close?

A: The Department recommends that salons in Jefferson County and surrounding counties follow the CDC's guidance for employers that can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>. The Department recommends limiting the number of patrons and staff to less than 25, social distancing, no walk-ins, services by appointment only, spacing patrons in waiting areas, and signs not to enter and reschedule if ill.

12. Does the seating area at mall food courts, not under the control of any one food establishment, have to close?

A: Yes. The intent of the order is to prevent congregating in close proximity for a meal time.