

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

March 24, 2020

Dear Cuyahoga County Caterers and Hall Gathering Centers,

COVID-19/coronavirus is proving to be a highly contagious virus that needs special attention from federal, state, and local public health authorities and healthcare. As your local health department, it is our job to interpret and enforce the orders issued by the State Health Director Dr. Amy Acton about Mass Gatherings and the Stay at Home orders.

After reviewing the orders, it is our opinion that a wedding reception or a funeral reception of more than 10 people is a separate event from the religious ceremony and is considered a gathering, meaning that they are prohibited by the Director's order. Either event usually consists of a large gathering of people in one room where there is not enough space to allow people to practice social distancing of six feet or more, to use proper hand hygiene, and to guarantee appropriate food delivery.

The guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that gatherings should be limited to 10 or fewer people who must use proper hand hygiene, social distancing, and disinfect surfaces. Small gatherings help to prevent the spread of COVID-19/coronavirus and other illnesses such as flu and the common cold. This is also required in the Director's Stay At Home Order.

We also ask that these smaller parties enjoy sit-down service with individual plates for everyone in attendance, as the governor has suggested. Buffets are no longer allowed during this time in order to prevent contamination of food and utensils by multiple customers.

We understand that these actions may significantly affect your business, but we feel that we can stop people from becoming ill by doing this now. The sacrifices you are making will save lives.

It is urgent that you immediately cancel any and all events that are larger than 10 people in size, and that you do not schedule events larger than 10 people until further notice. If you have additional questions, please contact us in writing and we will provide a written response. Our office is closed to the general public, but we have staff members available to answer your questions.

We understand that your business is important to you, your family, and our local economy. Please know that protecting the health of those people and everyone else in Cuyahoga County is just as important to us.

Sincerely,



Rick Novickis, MPH, RS
Director, Environmental Public Health