



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **Butler County General Health District**

For Immediate Release

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### **Public Health teams up with Butler County Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development**

BUTLER COUNTY, OH – The Butler County Chambers of Commerce, economic development and public health officials are working closely to ensure businesses’ and the needs of the public are met as more phases of re-opening rolls out.

“We fully understand that health is more than just protection from a virus; health is also being able to pay the rent and feed families. We need both of these things to work in harmony in order to successfully move out of shut down,” states Jennifer Bailer Health Commissioner for Butler County General Health District.

A strong economy is vital to the public’s health and safety. We can’t have healthy residents and a healthy community without people working and our businesses providing the goods and services needed. Kert Radel President/CEO of Fairfield Chamber of Commerce says. “It is critical for the consumer to feel safe in going to a restaurant or sports bar.”

Environmental Health Director Carrie Yeager states, “Its public health’s role to help businesses operate in this new environment safely, with the customer’s and employee’s health in mind.” Enforcing these requirements will take an educational focus and a team-oriented approach. “We are learning new things about this virus every day. We want to be helpful to businesses and give them the most up to date information. Establishing a relationship with the Butler County Chambers of Commerce allows us to work together in sharing new information and best practices,” said Yeager.

Weekly conference calls have brought additional support in educating the public and businesses on re-opening regulations. “The Fairfield Chamber felt it was necessary to reach out to the restaurants to answer any questions and in some cases visit them to show how to re-arrange their dining area to be in compliance,” stated Radel.

It is important that all businesses including area restaurants are in compliance with the health regulations to keep their employees and their consumers as safe as possible.

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[www.butlercountyohio.org/health](http://www.butlercountyohio.org/health)

## Helpful Resources:

Link for Ohio Restaurant Association for reopening restaurants:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/welcome/>

<https://www.ohiorestaurant.org/coronavirus-webinars>

<http://health.bcoho.us/>

## Additional Tips:

Minimize the impact of coronavirus on business operations:

In addition to good hand hygiene and common-sense precautions with your employees and patrons, the Butler County Chamber and public health encourages all local businesses to consider the following:

- **For your employees:**
  - Communicate plans, procedures and updates with employees
  - Ensure employees are wearing a facial cover or a mask.
  - Maintain 6 feet distance between all people entering in the workplace.
  - Allow time for employees to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when water and soap are not available.
  - Provide hand-washing and hand-sanitizing stations, as well as promotion disinfecting of work stations.
  - Check, modify, and communicate HR policies regarding remote working, sick-leave, and compensation during health crisis. Try to ensure your policies are as flexible and non-punitive as possible. Sick employees should be encouraged to stay home.
  
- **For your workflow:**
  - Encourage employees to take ownership of their own work spaces to keep them clean, providing employees with disinfectants.
  - Cross-train employees for key functions so that daily schedules can continue relatively uninterrupted by potential employee absences.
  - Where relevant, consider staggering start and end times to reduce large numbers of people coming together at the same time; and create and test remote employee collaboration systems (consider apps such as Slack and Zoom).
  
- **For yourself:**
  - Eat well, hydrate, sleep, and exercise.
  - Taking care of yourself in this time of stress will improve your resistance to infection and resilience in managing difficult business situations.
  - And of course, wash your hands all the dang time and don't touch your face, or anyone else, for that matter.

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