

# Screening Employees for COVID-19

March 19, 2020 | COVID-19

## COVID-19 Information for Businesses and Employers

### Screening Employees for COVID-19

To help protect the public against the spread of COVID-19, Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommend that all employers screen employees each day before work by following these steps:

- All employees who are able to work from home should be working from home at this time.
- For those employees who have to come in- each employee should have their temperature taken each day, and if they have a fever at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, that employee should be sent home.
  - This employee can return to work
    - They have had NO fever for at least three (3) days without the taking medication to reduce fever during that time; AND
    - There is improvement in their respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath); AND
    - At least seven (7) days have passed since their symptoms began.
  - It is best to use touchless thermometers if possible (forehead/ temporal artery thermometers), but if you must use oral or other types of thermometers, make sure to clean the thermometer thoroughly between each employee, as to not spread infection.
    - Follow the manufacturer's directions to disinfect the thermometer.
    - If no directions are available, rinse the tip of the thermometer in cold water, clean it with alcohol or alcohol swabs, and then rinse it again.
- If you do not have thermometers on site, have your employees take their temperature at home. They should stay home if they have a fever and follow the same protocol.

- There is currently a shortage on thermometers. If you cannot find thermometers, and the employees does not have one at home to check their temperature you can screen each incoming employee with a basic questionnaire:
- Do you have symptoms of respiratory infection? (fever, cough, shortness of breath) There is currently a shortage on thermometers. If you cannot find thermometers, and the employees does not have one at home to check their temperature you can screen each incoming employee with a basic questionnaire:
  - Do you have symptoms of respiratory infection? (fever, cough, shortness of breath)
    - No – proceed to work
    - Yes – Employee will be sent home. Employee is required to stay home for at least 7 days from the time they experienced symptoms AND at least three days after they have no fever (without taking medication to reduce fever) AND have improvement in their respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath)
    - Does not require a doctor's release.
- Have you been exposed to someone with confirmed COVID-19?
  - No – proceed to work
  - Yes, and not experiencing symptoms – employee will be required to stay at home for 14-days from the time they were exposed to confirmed COVID-19
  - Yes, and exhibiting symptoms – employee is required to stay home for at least 7 days from the time they experienced symptoms AND at least three days after they have no fever (without taking medication to reduce fever) AND have improvement in their respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath)
- Please remember to continue to follow preventative measures no matter how many employees are in the office— physical distancing, stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene as often as possible. Clean all high-touch surfaces regularly.

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If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1.800.985.5990 (1.800.846.8517 TTY), connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line – text the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741, or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1.877.275.6364 to find resources in your community.

#### **Additional Resources:**

How to take your temperature from Cleveland Clinic:

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/9959-thermometers-how-to-take-your-temperature>

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department of Health

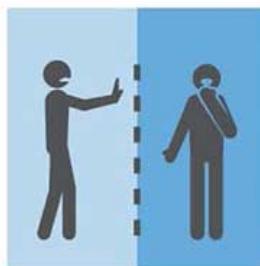
Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME



PRACTICE  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP  
AND EAT WELL-  
BALANCED  
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN  
WITH WATER AND SOAP  
( 20 SECONDS  
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH  
A CLEAN TOWEL  
OR AIR DRY  
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH  
WITH A TISSUE OR  
SLEEVE WHEN  
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING  
YOUR EYES, NOSE,  
OR MOUTH WITH  
UNWASHED HANDS  
OR AFTER  
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT  
"HIGH-TOUCH"  
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING  
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD  
HYGIENE HABITS

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

- Stay home
- Practice Social Distancing
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals

- Wash hands often with water and soap (20 seconds or longer)
- Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry your hands
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces
- Clean and disinfect "High-Touch" surfaces often
- Call before visiting your doctor
- Practice good hygiene habits

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**If you have questions regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19 please call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)**

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## **CLEAN ALL "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES EVERY DAY**

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

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