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March 24, 2020

Huron County Employers,

Huron County Public Health (HCPH) is being inundated with a large volume of calls, emails, and private messages on social media regarding essential employers who are not complying with the Director of the Ohio Department of Health's *Stay at Home Order* issued on March 22, 2020 in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Due to these inquiries, we are reiterating the Director's Order to our local business partners at this time. We hope that you recognize the overall purpose of the Director's Order: to minimize contact among individuals in the community, and above all, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible. Recognize that community spread of COVID-19 is occurring in Huron County, and, as a member of the business sector, you have a vital role in ensuring that our residents stay healthy through this crisis and complying with this Order is an essential piece of doing so.

As outlined in the Order, **non-essential businesses and operations must cease**. Essential businesses and operations that are permitted to remain open are defined within the Department of Health's Director's Order. Huron County Public Health is tasking each business and operation deemed "essential" by the content of the Order to examine your business's/operation's daily activities to determine which are **truly vital**. The decision on whether your business should remain open should be made in good faith and in consultation with your legal counsel, applicable trade unions, etc.

However, for essential businesses and operations engaged in minimum basic operations, it is **imperative** to the health of our residents that you comply with the governor's requests to take proactive measures to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements. A large portion of complaints we are receiving are in regards to essential businesses not complying with these protections. These proactive measures include where possible:

- **Designate six-foot distances.** Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
- **Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products.** Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers.



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- **Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations.** Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
- **Online and remote access.** Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

Additionally, the Director's Orders require businesses and employers to take the following actions outlined in the *COVID-19 Information and Checklist for Businesses/Employers* such as working from home, actively encouraging sick employees to stay home, etc. Please review these sections of the Orders closely. The full Orders can be found at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/public-health-orders/directors-order-to-stay-at-home>.

We cannot adequately maintain our public health response if further issues with compliance with the Director's Orders continue. If you have further questions regarding the Director's Orders and what this means for your business, please contact the Huron County Chamber of Commerce at 419-668-4155 or chamber@huroncountyohio.com.

We hope that you keep the health of your employees' as a priority in this time of crisis. Complying with the Director's Orders is critical to doing so. Please keep in mind that Huron County Public Health and local law enforcement have been empowered by the Ohio Department of Health to enforce these Orders should businesses not comply.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Hollinger', is written over the typed name.

Timothy Hollinger, MPH

Health Commissioner

Huron County Public Health