

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 GUIDANCE

GUIDANCE RELATED TO THE JULY 17, 2020 COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURE ORDER

This document is intended to answer frequent questions that the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has received concerning its recent COVID-19 Control Measure Order issued on July 17, 2020. The Health Department is unable to answer individual questions. If your concern or question is not directly addressed by this document, consider the intent of the order which is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among people.

For businesses seeking additional guidance, consider consulting an attorney or legal counsel for specific interpretations.

Please also review the [order issued by the PA Department of Health on July 15](#); additionally, [the department has issued an FAQ](#) for its order with information on sports, weddings, movie theaters, funeral homes, food trucks, catering, and more. The state's order is in effect in Allegheny County along with the county's July 17 order.

A full copy of the Allegheny County Health Department's order is available [here](#) and is posted on the main COVID webpage at <https://bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens to the Allegheny County public health orders issued on July 8?

The public health orders issued July 8 are rescinded and replaced by the order issued July 17, 2020, effective at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 17, 2020.

Orders issued on July 15 by [Gov. Tom Wolf](#) and state [Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine](#) are also in effect in Allegheny County.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

How do I report a food establishment which is not complying with this order or orders by the state?

Reports to the Health Department may be made in one of two ways:

- Online through the Allegheny County Support Center at <https://callcenter.alleghenycounty.us/>. Once there, select "Request a Service," then "Health Department," then "Food," then "Food Complaint." Users will be asked to create an account if they wish to receive updates on the complaint, but concerns may also be submitted anonymously. Complaints can still be monitored using the confirmation number provided once submitted online.
- By calling 412-350-INFO (412-350-4636)

Is indoor dining allowed?

Yes. All establishments offering indoor dining must follow the July 15 orders issued by the governor and secretary of health and the July 17 order issued by Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). ACHD has rescinded its order banning indoor dining.

Is there a three drink maximum?

No. The Allegheny County public health order establishing a three drink maximum was rescinded.

Does my food establishment need a permit from the Allegheny County Health Department to allow outdoor dining if such seating is not currently offered?

No. There is no permit needed from ACHD. All food facilities wishing to establish outdoor dining must follow local and state ordinances regarding outdoor dining and alcohol consumption.

Are dining spaces closed at 11 p.m. or are people no longer to be served after 11 p.m.?

The use of dining spaces is prohibited after 11 p.m. Diners must be finished with their drinks or meals and off premises. Takeout can be provided after 11 p.m. but must be consumed away from its place of sale.

Is smoking allowed in dining areas?

No. The use of any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes, is not allowed in indoor or outdoor dining areas.

CASINO

Is the casino allowed to be open?

Yes, but dining and beverage service must comply with orders from the state and the Allegheny County Health Department. Smoking is not allowed inside the facility. Masks must be worn at all times in the casino, as with all other businesses, according to the universal masking order issued July 1, 2020, by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

GATHERINGS, EVENTS, CATERING

Are farmers' markets allowed to operate under this order?

Yes. Farmers' markets are allowed to operate under this order provided they follow previous COVID-19 safety guidance (ACHD guidance is [here](#)). Any dining at a farmers' market is subject to this order. Capacity restrictions must be in place to allow for proper distancing.

Does the July 17, 2020, order impact permitted swimming pools/spas (includes community pools, condos, apartments, country clubs, wading pools, gyms, camps, etc.)?

No. The July 17, 2020, order does not apply to pools; however, the state's orders and guidance on pools still apply. Any food service at a pool is subject to this order.

COVID INFORMATION

What metrics are taken into account when initiating or terminating particular public health interventions like travel quarantine recommendations, business closures, gathering size restrictions, and/or activity restrictions?

A wide set of metrics are considered including but not limited to: the number of new cases per day; the change in number of new cases; the percent of those tested who have a positive test; the number of new and currently hospitalized patients; number of patients in the ICU; and bed and ventilator availability in the county. The vast majority of this data is available on the county COVID-19 dashboard: <https://bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19>.

Specific public health interventions are based on information obtained during the case investigations; in particular, information which is provided related to likely sources of exposure.

What is the county doing to increase access to COVID-19 testing?

Allegheny County Health Department Director Dr. Debra Bogen announced on July 15 that the Health Department is:

- Ordering more test kits from Curative for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Coordinating mobile testing among existing providers to spread out over county
- Working to develop an ACHD rapid response mobile testing unit
- Working with organizations to increase mobile specimen collection providers

Dr. Bogen also asked on July 15 that county residents prioritize testing for people with symptoms, people who were notified by the Health Department that they were close contacts of a person with COVID-19, and health care workers and first responders who have had a known exposure to COVID-19 or high-risk travel.

Anyone else that is asymptomatic but is worried that they may have COVID-19 is asked to stay home for 14 days and limit interaction with others.

What if residents are having trouble accessing testing via their primary care physicians or health care providers?

Residents may need to wait to get an appointment for testing at some locations listed on the ACHD's testing locator page. We are working to increase access to testing in the county.

OTHER ORDERS AND GUIDANCE

Orders and guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and governor remain in effect. These orders include but are not limited to:

- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Mitigation Measures, issued July 15, 2020](#)
- [Order of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Directing Targeted Mitigation Measures, issued July 15, 2020](#)
- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, issued July 1, 2020](#)
- [Guidance for Businesses in the Restaurant Industry Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees and the Public, issued May 27, 2020 and updated June 17, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses, issued May 4, 2020 and updated July 1, 2020](#)
- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Public Health Safety Measures for Businesses Permitted to Maintain In-person Operations, issued April 15, 2020](#)
- [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Building Safety Measures, issued April 5, 2020](#)

Guidance Provided by the Allegheny County Health Department – July 20, 2020