



Health
Commissioner
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March 26, 2020

Re: Interpretation of Sections 5C and 13A of the Ohio Director of Health's Stay-At-Home order as it relates to golf courses issued March 26, 2020.

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 22, 2020, The Ohio Director of Health issued stay at home orders in response the Covid-19 pandemic. Section 1 reads in pertinent part "With exceptions as outlined below, all individuals currently living within the State of Ohio are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in this Order."

On March 26, 2020, on the statewide local health department conference call, Socrates Tuch Legal Counsel for the Ohio Department of Health and Lance Himes, Chief of Staff for the Ohio Department of Health verified that golf courses are non-essential businesses with no exemption under Section 5C and are to remain closed under the Director's orders.

Section 13A specifies the following exemptions: "The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the conditions of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions."

Section 17 reads as follows: "This Order may be enforced by State and local law enforcement to the extent set forth in Ohio law. To the extent any public official enforcing this Order, the Director of Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order.

Section 19 reads as follows: "Nothing in this Order shall, in any way, alter or modify an existing legal authority allowing the State or any local health department from ordering (1) any quarantine or isolation that may require an individual to remain inside a particular residential property or medical facility for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency, or (2) any closure of a specific location for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency.

It is the opinion of the Clark County Combined Health District that the Director of Health's Stay at Home Orders were issued to reduce the spread of Covid-19 through social distancing so that our medical facilities are not pushed beyond capacity resulting in citizens not receiving life-saving critical care. Golf courses are classified as a non-essential business and are to remain closed under the Director's order. However, Section 13A does exempt golf course maintenance activities and they may continue.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Shaffer in our office at 937-390-5600, Extension 247.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Patterson, RS, MBA
Health Commissioner