

# City of Chillicothe

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Dear Restaurant, Bar, and Retail Business Owners

With a new wave of COVID surging across the State, the Governor has issued a directive enacting Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation requirements in all regions of the State. These directives go into effect at 12:01 am on Friday, November 20, 2020.

The Tier 3 guidelines aim to limit gatherings and encourages people to stay home to the greatest extent possible. The sad news is that we are moving away from "normal". The good news is that a vaccine seems to be in the works. Also, while the previous Tier 1 restrictions didn't make sense to some; so some decided to ignore the requirements, these Tier 3 requirements are very "black and white" and enforcement is more easily understood. Here they are....

Retail – 25% occupancy capacity for all stores except groceries and pharmacies which can have a 50% occupancy capacity.

Personal care – lesser of 25 clients or 25% occupancy capacity; must wear masks.

Health and fitness - 25% occupancy capacity; no indoor group classes; must wear masks.

Restaurants/Bars – no indoor dining/drinking; no video gaming; outdoor dining allowed from 6:00 am till 11:00 pm with tables six feet apart; no more than six at a table.

In all cases, precautions are to be taken such as social distancing, face masks, sanitation, signage, etc.

Regarding retail stores, the directives won't have as a drastic effect than on restaurants and bars.

Regarding restaurants and bars, the directive is for outdoor areas only, with precautions. Due to the colder weather upon us, outdoor dining and retail isn't as easy as it was when we moved into Phase 3 a few months ago. Nonetheless, the City continues to offer the use of public sidewalks and parking spaces for outdoor dining and retail. You might be considering a tent. Such an outdoor enclosure is acceptable as long as two sides are open for ventilation. Outdoor places with roofs will be considered as "outdoor spaces" as long as the two sides are opened to allow fresh air.

A clarification is that access to an outdoor eating/drinking area is encouraged to be through an outside gate, but traveling through the establishment to reach the "beer garden" is acceptable, with the appropriate precautions. Per a previous local directive, establishments with a Class A, C, or D license can sell carry out liquor in sealed containers.

Each business is expected to enforce the recommended directives and precautions. The police department will not be visiting establishments to confirm conformance. But, if the police department receives a

complaint, they will respond. Repeated non-conformance could lead to citations, revocation of licenses, etc.

These opportunities to expand outdoor space are totally voluntary and we understand that some businesses may not decide to participate because things like staffing costs might out way their expected revenue.

This is the time to be creative. So, if you have any suggestions, questions, or ideas, please let me know.

Thanks,

Donald Z. White  
Mayor and Liquor Commissioner