

Emergency Rule Limits Hours for On-Premises Alcohol Sales/Consumption, Expands Drinks-To-Go

Governor Mike DeWine signed an Executive Order on Friday, July 31, 2020, to put an emergency rule into effect that was passed by the Ohio Liquor Control Commission.

The Commission's emergency rule: (1) requires all liquor permit establishments that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption to end alcohol sales at 10 p.m. each evening; (2) prohibits all on-premises alcohol consumption at these same liquor permit premises between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.; and (3) increases the number of "drinks-to-go" that can be sold with a meal purchase from two to three.

This emergency rule goes into effect on Friday, July 31, 2020 at 10 p.m. This emergency rule remains in effect for 120 days or until rescinded by the Liquor Control Commission.

Independent of the rule, businesses are permitted to remain open for operation, without alcohol sales, during their standard hours as long as all health precautions are in place. Please refer to the [Ohio Department of Health's guidelines](#) for more details. Permit holders may also continue to sell and deliver carryout beer, wine, and mixed beverages in the original containers to the extent allowed by their liquor permit.

Regarding drinks-to-go, permit holders that are authorized to sell for on-premises consumption may continue under the emergency to sell and deliver beer, wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor by the individual drink for carryout provided the following requirements are met:

- The permit holder may sell and deliver drinks that it prepares on the premises for a personal consumer for off-premises consumption;
- Spirituous liquor drinks cannot contain more than two ounces of spirituous liquor per container;
- All drinks sold must be in a closed container;
- Any sale under this paragraph shall include a food purchase from the premises;
- No more than three drinks may be sold per meal;
- The permit holder must comply with all applicable state tax laws; and
- The permit holder remains subject to all liquor laws and rules including hours of operation, minimum age requirements, and the prohibition against sales to intoxicated persons.

All purchases of alcohol remain subject to Ohio's open container law upon leaving the premises.

The Ohio Investigative Unit will enforce this emergency rule. If a permit holder is found to be in violation, they may be issued a citation. Permit holders may be subject to fines, permit suspension, or revocation.