May 1, 2020

Dear Operators:

The Director of the Ohio Department of Health Dr. Amy Acton signed a new “Stay Safe Ohio” order on April 30, 2020, that outlines a gradual re-opening of businesses so long as specific workplace safety standards are met. The Order specifically identifies when certain types of businesses may re-open:

* May 1 – Healthcare, including Dentists and Veterinarians (for elective procedures not requiring overnight hospital stays)
* May 4 – Manufacturing, Distribution, Construction, and General Office Environments
* May 12 – Consumer, Retail, and Service Businesses

These businesses may reopen if they can meet the specific provisions outlined in the order, which we have posted on the City of Marietta website. The “Responsible Protocols” flyer I’ve enclosed summarizes these provisions. These must be met by ALL businesses wishing to operate, not just those that are re-opening.

If you operate a business not identified in this order (see the “Continued Closures” document), please know that the Governor is actively working on plans for when you can also safely re-open. You can start now to prepare your facility by reviewing the entire Stay Safe Ohio Order, focusing most on Item #21. It outlines specific provisions that will apply to your operation; additional provisions will be announced in future orders specific to your type of business.

In order to ensure a safe return to operation, consider the behaviors of staff/customers, the environment, and the business practices of your company. COVID-19 cases traced to a business environment will likely result in the quarantine of most, if not all, staff connected with that case. A business should develop a plan to address a possible closure due to the quarantine of staff and/or the need to sanitize the facility.

I have also included flyers for you to post or share with your staff. Remember each business’s ability to comply with the requirements will be in plain view. Our office has fielded and responded to numerous complaints from residents and employees over the past two months who felt an essential business was not operating in a safe manner. Trust me, the public is watching and will likely report deviations from the Director’s Order to us for investigation and enforcement. Failure to comply with the Director’s Order is a second-degree misdemeanor; licenses/permits to operate food service operations, retail food establishments, body art establishments, and other businesses regulated by the Board of Health can also be suspended for failure to comply.

If you have additional questions after reading the “Stay Safe Ohio” order, you can contact me at barbbradley@mariettaoh.net or 740-373-0611, extension 2303.

**As a reminder, the final decisions regarding reopening businesses rests with Governor DeWine and Director Acton.**

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Bradley, RS

Director of Environmental Health

Enclosures