



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike takes measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

BEREA (March 17, 2020) – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Mike DeWine declaring a state of emergency on March 9, leadership of the Ohio Turnpike has taken steps to ensure the safety of its employees and the traveling public.

“The Ohio Turnpike has taken appropriate measures to keep customers and employees as safe as possible,” said Executive Director Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E. “Due to the fluid nature of the situation nationwide and globally, we continue to conduct contingency planning and will implement new measures as necessary.”

ACTIONS TAKEN AT SERVICE PLAZAS

In accordance with the state's order regarding restaurants, food concession operators in all Ohio Turnpike Service Plazas are limited to carryout sales only. Tables and chairs in food courts are temporarily unavailable to our customers to eliminate surfaces that could become contaminated with COVID-19.

Janitorial crews have increased the frequency of scheduled cleanings and are using products recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Chemical Laboratories to clean and sanitize public areas.

Special attention is being paid to touchpoints in the restrooms, infant-changing tables, showers, door handles, vending machines, ATMs, travel kiosks, condiment centers, etc.

The interior design of the Service Plaza facilities has several features that assist with physical separation and reduce the spread of viral and bacterial infection. These include barrier-free entrances to public restrooms; touch-free flush components; touchless faucets and hand dryers; soap and towel dispensers; and hand-sanitizing stations. The Service Plazas also have large open floor plans that promote social distancing and provide proper ventilation.

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Meanwhile, all plaza vendors have increased emphasis on sanitation and good hygiene practices and have posted and communicated the most recent public health recommendations for promoting restaurant safety to their staff.

ACTIONS TAKEN AT TOLL PLAZAS

Toll Collectors collect approximately 35 percent of tolls by cash or credit. To help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Toll Plaza personnel have been provided with nitrile gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for their mandatory use.

For the safety of employees and customers, the Ohio Turnpike is encouraging customers to consider using *E-ZPass* or a credit card (not cash) to make toll payments. Customers may order an E-ZPass transponder from the [Ohio Turnpike's E-ZPass Hub](#) or by visiting more than [360 retail outlets](#) that participate in the program. Beyond these measures, we are monitoring and following any new recommendations from the Governor's Office and the Ohio Department of Health.



These hand-washing stickers have been placed in all 14 Ohio Turnpike Service Plazas and 15-second health updates will be running on Turnpike TV monitors every three minutes.

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For more information contact:

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