

REOPEN from page 1A

Stores must post clear signs listing COVID symptoms, encouraging physical distancing, and asking customers with symptoms to stay home.

"Frequently clean and sanitize work areas, high-traffic areas and commonly touched surfaces in both customer/public and employee areas of the store," OHA wrote. "Wipe down changing room doorknobs, walls and seating between each customer use."

Finally, all employees are required to wear cloth, paper or disposable face coverings, with no exceptions being listed. Businesses must provide those coverings for employees.

However, customers — although encouraged — are not required to wear masks. "Strongly encourage all customers to wear cloth, paper or disposable face coverings," OHA said. "If a store sets a policy that all customers are required to wear cloth, paper or disposable face coverings, store management should consult with their legal counsel to determine whether such a requirement can be enforced."

The state has not required citizens to wear masks, though it strongly suggests people do so, particularly in enclosed settings or while indoors. Instead, the state has put the onus on businesses to decide on whether to require customers to wear a mask — putting businesses in a difficult position. While on one hand there's the safety of their clients and employees, the majority of handmade masks don't protect the person wearing them from contracting the virus. Instead, they help prevent the wearer from spreading the virus. Because of that, current mandates protect customers, but not employees.

However, it's not always easy for businesses to require or even request face masks be worn. Nationally, businesses and states have faced boycotts, social media harassment, with people threatening physical violence against employees — including, in one case, the fatal shooting of a security guard who had asked a customer to wear a mask.

Without clear guidance from the state, a business can be faced with a decision of either potentially endangering the health of its em-

ployees or the health of its bottom line.

There are other suggestions that OHA makes that retail stores should follow "to the extent possible," but are not required. These include encouraging one-way flow with marked entrances and exits, placing clear

unclear exactly how much risk is involved when eating in a restaurant.

Buffets, salad bars and soda refill stations are banned, as are karaoke machines, pool tables and bowling. However, video lottery terminals will be allowed if users can be six

feet apart and the machines are cleaned after use.

Finally, restaurants and bars must "End all on-site consumption of foods and drinks, including alcoholic beverages, by 10 p.m.," the OHA wrote. The stated justification for the rule is that as the night wears on and when alcohol gets involved, inhibitions are loosened and social distancing guidelines could be ignored or harder to enforce as a result. There are a host of non-required requests by OHA, including assigning a designated greeter or host to manage customer flow. Reservations are encouraged, and it is suggested businesses should "assign employees to monitor customer access to common areas, such as restrooms, to ensure that customers do not congregate."

barriers in front of cashiers and prohibiting customers from trying on items that are worn on the face, such as cloth masks, scarves, headbands and eyewear.

What will a restaurant or bar look like?

The most notable change in restaurants will be how they are set up.

"Ensure tables are spaced at least six feet apart so that at least six feet between parties is maintained, including when customers approach or leave tables," OHA requirements stated.

Bar seating that faces an employee, such as a bartender, are prohibited, though tables facing a window or wall are acceptable if a six-foot distance is maintained. It's up to businesses to determine seating configurations, but they are allowed to remove seating or blocking off every other booth.

Only parties of 10 or less will be accepted, though they do not have to be six feet apart when sitting.

As for employees, "meticulous hand hygiene" is a must, and employees must wear gloves when cleaning and sanitizing. All employees must wear face coverings, even if they work primarily in the kitchen area.

However, customers are not required to wear masks while seated at their table. Obviously, eating with a mask is not viable, but some recent studies have shown that diners without a mask may be particularly vulnerable to catching the virus while sitting in a restaurant. Airflow from air conditioning units or opening doors spread the virus around the enclosed area, which in turn spreads to diners sitting for an extended period of time. However, the science surrounding the spread of COVID-19 is still evolving, and it remains

cleared.

When a client arrives, they must "wait in their car or outside to be contacted when the provider is ready for the appointments," wrote the OHA. When the client does enter, all magazines, service menus, snacks and beverages must have been removed.

Temperature checks for arriving clients is highly suggested, but not required. Social distancing will still be enforced, except for provider-to-client contact. In addition, only one provider is allowed to work with a client during the appointment. Providers must also be wearing face coverings while working with clients, while clients have to wear a clean cape, if applicable, for the appointment. Providers are allowed to use disposable capes.

Multiple businesses have remained open during the shutdown while adhering to the majority of requirements listed by OHA,

though some have been lax, particularly when it comes to employees wearing masks. However, it is hoped that the majority of businesses will be able to reopen in some capacity. But the requirements will cause some to remain closed, particularly small businesses. Because restaurants have to remove tables for social distancing, they could see a dramatic decrease in customers they can serve in one day, with some small restaurants forced to reduce to just a few tables. The 10 p.m. curfews on dine-in service could also reduce clientele for late-night bars and diners, leading to low overall sales.

Of the three types of businesses reviewed, personal services has the longest list of requirements and suggestions.

Will all businesses be able to reopen with the restrictions?

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What will personal services look like?

Customers are required to make an appointment, which includes a prescreening for COVID.

"Contact client prior to appointment and ask, 'Have you had a cough? Have you had a fever? Have you had shortness of breath? Have you been in close contact with anyone with these symptoms or anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?'" requires the OHA.

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, the appointment needs to be rescheduled.

If the answer is "no," the business should review information on how COVID is spread, then gather the client's contact information for any possible investigation.

"If there is a positive COVID-19 case associated with the business, public health may need the business to provide this information for a contact tracing

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