



May 7, 2020

## **Ohio Restaurant Association Statement on Reopening Outside Dining and Dine-In at Restaurants in Ohio**

As Governor Mike DeWine continues to unveil his *Responsible RestartOhio* plan, the Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) and our members across Ohio appreciate him adding outside dining and dine-in at restaurants to the list of businesses allowed to operate.

Ohio restaurants and foodservice locations look forward to welcoming guests back for outside dining on May 15 and into dining rooms on May 21.

The ORA is committed to working with restaurants throughout Ohio to operate safely and showcase those efforts through the *Ohio Restaurant Promise* so the dining public can confidently patronize Ohio's excellent restaurants. We all love the communities and neighborhoods we serve and can't wait to see guests safely back in dining rooms and on patios. We will partner with health departments in Ohio to focus owners and operators on strict adherence to the Administration's requirements and recommended guidelines.

With safety certified staff always on site for every shift and an already high emphasis on proper sanitation and hygiene, the restaurant industry is well prepared to lead the way on safety – employee safety, food safety and guest safety.

We appreciate Lt. Governor Jon Husted's efforts and the tireless work of the many dedicated Ohio restaurateurs who were a part of the Restaurant Advisory Group he and the Governor formed. Together with our partners in local health departments, the ORA provided recommended reopening guidelines and worked closely with the group to finalize the standards outlined by the Governor today.

We applaud the leadership of Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted and the collaborative approach they take to governing. It has served Ohio well during this public health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19. We look forward to continuing to work with the DeWine/Husted Administration to get restaurants safely open, ensure the public of our commitment to guest and employee safety, get restaurant employees back to work and help restart Ohio's economy.

We are thankful to customers who have supported carryout, drive through and delivery in Ohio since mid-March, and encourage our guests to continue to support their favorite restaurants as we begin a step in what will be a long recovery process.

### **Contact:**

John Barker, President & CEO: [jbarker@ohiorestaurant.org](mailto:jbarker@ohiorestaurant.org) or 614-397-1248

Homa Moheimani, Manager of Media and Communications: [hmoheimani@ohiorestaurant.org](mailto:hmoheimani@ohiorestaurant.org) or 614-315-0572