



COVID-19 Response Efforts - July 23, 2020

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. As a reminder, the Board's COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist our licensees in addressing operational needs, can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Governor DeWine Issues Statewide Mask Order Effective 7/23/2020 at 6 pm

Governor DeWine announced that beginning on Thursday, July 23, at 6:00 PM, a statewide mask mandate will go into effect for citizens living in all 88 Ohio counties. All individuals in Ohio must wear facial coverings in public at all times when: at an indoor location that is not a residence; outdoors, but unable to maintain six-foot social distance from people who are not household members; waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, such as a taxi, a car service, or a private car used for ride-sharing.

The order only requires those 10 years old or older to wear a mask. Additional exclusions include: those with a medical condition or a disability or those communicating with someone with a disability; those who are actively exercising or playing sports, at religious services, involved in public safety, or actively eating or drinking.

For additional information regarding statewide mask mandate visit: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Board of Pharmacy Warns of Increasing Extortion Scam Calls During COVID-19

The Board continues to receive reports of calls threatening legal action if an exorbitant fine is not paid immediately over the phone. The callers identify themselves as either Board of Pharmacy or DEA personnel and instruct their victims to pay the "fine" via wire transfer to avoid arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, and license revocation.

The reported scam tactics are continually changing, but share many of the following characteristics:

- Callers use fake names and badge numbers or names of well-known senior officials.
- The tone of calls is urgent and aggressive; callers refuse to speak or leave a message with anyone other than the person for whom they are calling.
- Callers threaten arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, and license revocation.
- Callers demand thousands of dollars via wire transfer or in the form of untraceable gift cards.
- Callers falsify the number on caller ID to appear as a legitimate phone number.
- Callers often ask for personal information, such as social security number or date of birth.
- When calling a medical practitioner, callers often reference National Provider Identifier numbers and/or state license numbers and threaten revocation of their license.

Board of Pharmacy and DEA employees do not contact healthcare providers or members of the public by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment.

Anyone receiving a telephone call from a person purporting to be a DEA or Board of Pharmacy employee seeking money should refuse the demand and report the threat using the Board's online [complaint form](#) and the DEA's [online form](#). Reporting scam calls will greatly assist the Board of Pharmacy and DEA in investigating and stopping this criminal activity.

