



### **DIRECTOR'S ORDER**

#### **In Re: Order to Limit and/or Prohibit Spectators attending the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo March 5-8, 2020 in Columbus Ohio**

I, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 to “make special orders...for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases” **Order** the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the State of Ohio:

1. The Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo is prohibited from allowing the public to attend events as part of the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo scheduled for March 5-8, 2020 at the following venues:
  - Greater Columbus Convention Center (400 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215)
  - Ohio Expo Center (717 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211)
  - Hyatt Regency Columbus (350 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215)
2. The Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo may allow the parents or guardians of any minor competing in an event at the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo to attend the event(s) in which their child(ren) are participating. The parents or guardians must have appropriate identification to prove they are the parent or guardian of a minor participating in the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo.
3. On Friday March 6, 2020 the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo is permitted to admit spectators to the following four events scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Battelle Grand at the Columbus Convention Center:
  - a. Fitness International—Finals
  - b. Figure International—Finals
  - c. Women’s Physique—Finals
  - d. Classic Physique—Finals
4. On Saturday March 7, 2020, the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo is permitted to admit spectators to the following four events scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Battelle Grand at the Columbus Convention Center:
  - a. Men’s Physique—Finals
  - b. Arnold Classic—Finals
  - c. Arnold Strongman Classic
  - d. Bikini International—Finals

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread from person to person who are in close contact with each other (within about six (6) feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern. On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists over 75 countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19. CDC reports over 93,000 diagnosed cases worldwide with 3,100 deaths reported worldwide. The CDC has announced 80 confirmed and presumptive positive cases, with nine deaths reported from the disease.

Some areas of the United States are experiencing "community spread" of the virus that causes COVID-19. Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

The CDC reports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) however some spread might be possible before people show symptoms although that is not the main way the virus spreads.

The Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo has 22,000 athletes from eighty countries slated to compete. The event draws 200,000 people—including an international audience—to venues across Columbus to watch and participate in the events. A large gathering of this type, which puts thousands of people shoulder to shoulder in a confined space, increases the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Accordingly, to avoid an imminent threat with a high probability of widespread exposure to COVID-19 with a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the general population, including the elderly and people with weakened immune systems and chronic medical conditions, I hereby **ORDER** the Arnold Sports and Fitness Expo to prohibit general public spectators.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Acton MD MPH", with a horizontal line underneath.

Amy Acton, MD, MPH  
Director of Health

March 5, 2020