COVID-19 Checklist for Residential Landlords

Protecting Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that residential landlords immediately take the following actions.

- Ramp up disinfecting of lobbies, common areas and bathrooms, high-traffic areas, and frequently touched surfaces. This could include fitness areas and equipment, hallways, doors, doorknobs, elevators, elevator buttons, stairwells, mailboxes, trash and pet-waste receptacles, refreshment areas, pool and recreation/game areas and equipment, indoor and outdoor furniture, and TVs.

- Provide soap, hand sanitizer, and wipes for residents to use in common areas.

- Consider temporarily closing common areas if this can be done safely. Cancel all social/community activities.

- Encourage tenants to wipe down doorknobs and other high-touch areas in their units. Post information on COVID-19 prevention methods, such as frequent handwashing, covering coughs, and practicing social distancing by staying 6 feet away from others.

Ask tenants to stay in their units as much as possible, especially if they have signs of COVID-19, such as cough or difficulty breathing or any of the following two symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. Consider offering to deliver mail or other essentials outside their doors to allow them to stay isolated. Avoid stigmatization of sick tenants and quell stigmatization by other tenants.

- Ask residents who have lost jobs or income to notify you. Be open to discussing alternative payment arrangements, such as rent reduction, payment deferrals, repayment plans, waiving of late fees, or other means of assistance.

- Remind tenants who are not facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 that they should continue to pay their rent as usual. Encourage them to pay online for contactless transactions.

- Refrain from attempts to evict renters for failure to pay rent. Be aware that the chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court has asked judges to refrain from eviction proceedings, including move-outs.

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov
When appropriate, and any court deadlines related to such cases have been temporarily placed on hold by the state legislature.

If you are struggling with mortgage payments, reach out to your lender to discuss forbearance options. Governor Mike DeWine has issued an order requesting that lenders provide commercial real estate borrowers with mortgage loans an opportunity for a forbearance of at least 90 days as a result of a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also reach out to your insurance carrier for alternative payment options.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.
Prevention

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

Stay home

Practice social distancing

Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals

Wash hands often with water and soap (20 seconds or longer)

Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry your hands

Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces

Clean and disinfect "high-touch" surfaces often

Call before visiting your doctor

Practice good hygiene habits

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.