



1380 East Kibby Street P.O. Box 1566 Lima, OH 45802-1566 419-222-7946 [westohiofoodbank.org](http://westohiofoodbank.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

### West Ohio Food Bank CEO urges Cooperation from Public during future food distribution events

LIMA, OH (August 25, 2020) – We want to thank the community for the support they have provided to West Ohio Food Bank and continue to do so. It is unfortunate that there were issues at the food distribution on Monday, August 24th, so we would like to take this opportunity to apologize for interference these distributions may have caused with our neighboring businesses and to reiterate that we are working diligently on a solution to these issues. We truly thank each of our neighbors for their continuous understanding of our mission. The safety of our volunteers, staff, and individuals utilizing our services are our utmost priority.

The following steps will be implemented going forward for anyone attending our distribution. Please read these and understand that the last thing we want to do is cancel distributions from our location, but if these rules are not followed, we will discontinue distributions at our Kibby St. location. Thank you for your understanding, support, and cooperation with these rules and the distributions.

1. No one will be permitted to line up any earlier than 30 minutes before the distribution. Example: distribution begins at 11:00 a.m. no one can line up or get into our gates until 10:30.
2. Anyone lining up prior to this will be asked to leave and will not be served that day.
3. Anyone who parks in the neighboring business parking lots trying to be first in line when the gates open will be asked to leave and not be served that day.
4. Anyone who is rude, violent, cursing, or causing a scene with our staff, volunteers, National Guard, individuals in line, or individuals trying to get through traffic on Kibby St. will be removed and depending on the circumstance, may not be permitted to attend future distributions.
5. Please have trunks cleared of items so food can be loaded. If they are not you will be required to pull aside and load your items yourself.

6. If your trunk does not work or you need to have something propping your trunk or truck cap open, you will need to pull aside to load the food yourself.

7. While we are as careful as we can be, we are not liable for damages done to items inside the trunks of vehicles or the beds of pick-up trucks.

The safety of our volunteers, staff, and individuals utilizing our services are our utmost priority. We appreciate your consideration and cooperation with these rules as we work through an efficient and effective process and solution.

I welcome any thoughts or ideas that may help us with these distributions moving forward and ensuring that individuals are served in a safe and timely manner. Please feel free to contact me directly for any input you may have.

My direct number is 419-222-7946 extension 202, and my email is [tommie@wofb.org](mailto:tommie@wofb.org).

Thank you.

### **About West Ohio Food Bank:**

West Ohio Food Bank is the largest food distribution system in West Ohio coordinating, collecting, warehousing and distributing food. The process of getting food to individuals in need requires a dynamic infrastructure and sophisticated management. West Ohio Food Bank secures donations from national food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, shippers, packers and growers and from government agencies, individuals and other organizations. They in turn distribute food and grocery items, ensuring the safe storage and reliable distribution of goods to local food pantries and meal programs that served over 5 million meals to children, families, seniors and other groups at risk of hunger. For more information visit us at [www.westohiofoodbank.org](http://www.westohiofoodbank.org), find us on Facebook.com/Westohio Food Bank or follow us on twitter.com/WestOhioFB.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Jason Aldrich or Tommie Harner at 419-222-7946