

What you should know about Georgia's statewide shelter-in-place order

When does it start and how long does it last?

The order starts from 6PM on Friday, April 3, 2020 through 11:59 PM on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

What is "shelter in place"?

It means you should remain in your residence and take every possible precaution to limit social interaction to prevent the spread of infection of COVID-19.

Can I still leave the house?

Yes. Under the stay at home order you can still:

- Go to the grocery store, medical appointments and pharmacy.
- Go out to buy supplies to clean or maintain your house.
- Have food picked up or delivered.
- Go outside to exercise.
- Leave the house in an emergency.
- Go to work (necessary travel)
 - Note: Business must NOT be on the "cease in-person operations" list and must be critical for infrastructure or operating under minimum basic operations.

Can I receive visitors in my house?

Yes. It allows visitors who provide healthcare including home hospice, visitors who provide support for daily living like nannies and babysitters and visitors during end of life circumstances.

What is closed?

The following business and professions must cease in-person operations and close to the public during this time:

- Bars
- Fitness Centers
- Gyms
- Live Performance Venues

- Estheticians
 - Hair Designers
 - Nightclubs
 - Bowling Alleys
 - Theaters
 - Body Art Studios [Tattoo Parlors]
 - Beauty Shops and Salons
 - Barbering Schools
 - Licensed Massage Therapists
 - Barber Shops
 - Esthetics Schools
 - Nail Care Schools
- Cosmetology Schools
 - Operators of Amusement Venues
 - Hair Design Schools
- Dine in-services at restaurants and private social clubs
 - **Exceptions:** Take-out; curbside pick-up; delivery; and dine-in services at hospitals, healthcare facilities, nursing homes, or other long-term care facilities.

Do I need a letter to prove that I can keep working?

No. You do not need a letter from your employer or the government to prove that you fall into one of the exceptions for Essential Services, Necessary Travel, Critical Infrastructure, or Minimum Basic Operations.

If you have questions about Critical Infrastructure, please contact the Department of Economic Development. You can email covidcomments@georgia.org for assistance or visit georgia.org for more information.

What about restaurants?

Dine-in service at restaurants and social clubs is no longer allowed, except for eating places at hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Takeout, curbside pickup and delivery are still allowed.

What stays open?

The policy allows two different types of businesses and nonprofits to stay open: “minimum basic operations” and “critical infrastructure.”

The “critical infrastructure” firms include banks, hardware stores, utilities, key manufacturers, suppliers of essential goods, legal firms, news outlets, health providers, and nonprofits that specialize in food delivery and health services.

“Minimum basic operations” are those functions that are needed to support a business such as payroll, inventory, employee benefits and activities that facilitate employees working remotely, and instances where regular contact with other persons can be avoided, such as landscaping, delivery services, contractors and agricultural industry services.

What are some of the requirements to stay open?

Employers must screen workers for symptoms of coronavirus, such as a fever over 100.4 degrees, a cough or shortness of breath. They must hold virtual meetings and implement teleworking and staggered shifts when possible.

They must avoid group gatherings and enforce social distancing. The companies that are not considered “critical” must also meet a few additional guidelines, including increasing space between employees and customers, providing more disinfectant and sanitation services and setting up alternate points of sale outside.

What is the social distancing rule?

No business, establishment, for-profit or nonprofit corporation, organization, or county or municipal government is allowed to have more than ten (10) people gathering in a single location unless there is at least six (6) feet between each person at all times.

Can I still go outside, play sports, or visit state parks?

Yes. There are no limits on exercise, so long as social distancing is employed. You can still visit state parks and play sports outside, including golf, but gatherings of more than ten (10) people are not allowed unless there's at least six (6) feet between each person.

If more people gather in certain areas, law enforcement will warn them to disband. If they fail to obey, they may face criminal charges.

Do my local government's restrictions still apply?

The new statewide rules override the restrictions that local governments implemented over the past few weeks. This means more strict or tolerant rules implemented by some cities and counties are no longer in place.

Can I still go to church or my house of worship?

Yes, but churches and funeral services are not allowed to have more than ten (10) people gathering in a single location unless there is at least six (6) feet between each person at all times.

Does this order limit the sale of guns or ammunition?

No. It specifies that the sale, distribution or transportation of firearms and ammunition is not affected.



What happens if people or businesses do not obey the order?

Those who violate the terms of the order will be committing a crime in the State of Georgia and could face misdemeanor charges.

For example, if you are not sheltering in place and none of the exceptions for Essential Services, Minimum Basic Operations, Critical Infrastructure, or Necessary Travel apply to your activities, you will receive a warning from law enforcement and risk facing criminal charges if you fail to obey.