

COVID-19

Stay at Home Executive Order

Frequently Asked Questions

On Friday, March 20, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-10 requiring all Illinoisans to stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The order prohibits things like visiting the homes of friends and holding gatherings of any size and closes all nonessential establishments, including most retail, recreation and entertainment businesses. It does NOT prohibit essential activities like going to the grocery store, receiving medical care, or taking your pet for a walk. For more information on what this order means for you, please see below. In addition to this list, the City of Chicago also compiled a helpful [website](#) about the Executive Order. For your Reference Executive Order 2020-10 is attached.

The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving, Executive Order 2020-10 is subject to modification at anytime by State or Federal Authorities.

When does the order take effect?

The order took effect Saturday, March 21, at 5 p.m.

Where does the Stay at Home order apply?

The Governor's executive order includes the entire state. Unless you work for an essential business or are doing an essential activity, you should stay home.

Is this mandatory or just guidance?

This order is mandatory. To help prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in Illinois and protect our friends, neighbors, and vulnerable populations, please stay home.

How will this order be enforced?

Staying home is critical to reducing the spread of COVID-19 in your community. The Illinois State Police will work with local law enforcement to enforce this order but adhering to the order will save lives and it is the responsibility of every Illinoisan to do their part.

Will the Illinois National Guard be enforcing this order?

No. The Illinois National Guard will be supporting logistics, transportation, and medical response efforts. The Guard will not be enforcing this order.

I work in an essential service. How will the police know I'm allowed to be outside my house?

Law enforcement officials will not stop residents who are on their way to or from work or who are out for necessities like going to the pharmacy or getting groceries, or just taking a walk. Illinoisans should abstain from all nonessential activities. Adhering to the order will save lives and it is the responsibility of every Illinoisan to do their part.

All essential services will remain open, including:

- **Emergency City services** and other essential government services.
- **Healthcare and Public Health Operations:** Working at or obtaining services from hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities; healthcare manufacturers and suppliers; blood banks; medical cannabis facilities; reproductive health care providers; eye care

centers; home healthcare services providers; mental health and substance use providers; ancillary healthcare services — including veterinary care and excluding fitness and exercise gyms, spas, salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, and similar facilities.

- **Human Services Operations:** any provider funded by DHS, DCFS or Medicaid; long-term care facilities; home-based and residential settings for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with disabilities or mental illness; transitional facilities; field offices for food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services or rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services and other necessities of life for needy individuals — excluding day care centers, day care homes, group day care homes and day care centers licensed as specified in Section 12(s) of the order.
- **Essential Infrastructure:** Working in food production, distribution and sale; construction; building management and maintenance; airport operations; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical; distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; ports; cybersecurity operations; flood control; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video, and telecommunications systems.
- **Stores that sell groceries and medicine**
- **Food, beverage and cannabis production and agriculture**
- **Organizations that provide charitable and social services**
- **Media**
- **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation**
- **Financial institutions**
- **Hardware and supply stores**
- **Critical trades:** including plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers that maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses and Operations
- **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery and pick-up services**
- **Educational institutions:** for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions
- **Laundry services**
- **Restaurants for consumption off-premises**
- **Supplies to work from home**
- **Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations**
- **Transportation, for purposes of Essential Travel**
- **Home-based care and services**
- **Residential facilities and shelters**
- **Professional services**
- **Day care centers for employees exempted by this Executive Order**
- **Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries**
- **Critical labor union functions**
- **Hotels and motels:** to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services
- **Funeral services**

How can I get medical care if I need it?

If you are feeling sick, call your doctor, a nurse hotline, any telehealth hotline set up specifically for COVID-19 (check with your insurance company) or an urgent care center. Do not go to an emergency

room unless necessary. Nonessential medical care like eye exams and teeth-cleaning should be postponed. When possible, healthcare visits should be done remotely. Contact your healthcare provider to see what tele-health services they provide.

What is the guidance for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

State Operated Developmental Centers, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Community Integrated Living Arrangements will continue to provide care. All in-home direct care staff are considered essential staff and should continue to support individuals in the home setting.

If you have any specific questions about your support and services, please reach out to your provider or Individual Service Coordination (ISC) Agency. To receive updated information on DDD services, please sign up for our email database, or to update your contact and service information, please visit www.DDD.Illinois.gov.

What if I still have to go to work?

Unless your work is an essential function (i.e. healthcare provider, grocery store clerk, first responder), you should stay home. If you have been designated essential by your employer, you should continue to go to work and practice social distancing.

What if I think my business should be closed but I'm still being asked to operate?

Essential businesses will remain open during the Stay at Home order to provide services that are vital to the lives of Illinoisans. Those businesses include, but are not limited to, pharmacies, certain government offices, day care centers that provide care for the children of essential employees, and restaurants providing take-out meals. If you work for an essential business, you should continue to practice social distancing and should stay at home outside of work hours. If you believe your business is nonessential but are still being asked to show up to work, you may discuss with your employer.

Can I order food/groceries?

Yes, grocery delivery will be available as well as meal-delivery, drive through, and take-out options.

What about general retail stores?

Yes, but only to fill online orders -- not open to public.

A certain service is essential for me, but the Governor didn't include it, what do I do?

The Stay at Home order was issued to protect the health, safety and well-being of Illinoisans. While some businesses like fitness centers and salons will be closed, essential services will always be available. For a full list of businesses that will still operate during the order, visit www.coronavirus.illinois.gov.

Will public transportation and ridesharing be available?

Public transportation and ridesharing should be used for essential travel only. When possible, walk or drive yourself.

Will roads in Illinois be closed?

No, the roads will not be closed in Illinois. You should only travel if it is essential to your work or health.

Can I take a flight out of state?

Planes and any other form of travel should only be used for essential purposes.

What if my home is not a safe environment?

If it is not safe for you to remain home, you are able and urged to find another safe place to stay during this order. Please reach out so we can help. You may call the domestic violence hotline at 1-877-863-6338 or contact your local law enforcement.

What about homeless people who can't stay at home?

The administration wants to protect the health and safety of all Illinoisans, regardless of where they live. State agencies are partnering with community organizations to provide funding and resources to ensure our homeless population has safe shelter.

Can I visit friends and family?

For your safety, as well as the safety of those in your community, you should remain at home to help fight the spread of COVID-19. You may visit family members who need medical or other essential assistance, such as ensuring an adequate supply of food.

What about my pet?

You are allowed to walk your dog and seek medical care for your pet should they require it. Be sure to practice social distancing while out on walks, maintaining at least 6 feet from other neighbors and their pets.

Does the Stay at Home order mean I can't take my kids to the park?

State parks will be closed during the Stay at Home order. Families will still be able to go outside and take a walk, run, or bike ride but should continue to practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from other people. Playgrounds are closed because they pose a high risk of increasing transmission.

What is the difference between the Stay at Home order and social distancing?

Social distancing is an important first step in preventing the spread of a disease like COVID-19 that allows people to go about their daily activities while taking extra health and safety precautions. The Stay at Home order requires people to remain in their homes unless they have an essential job or are doing an essential task like going to the grocery store or walking a pet.

Can I leave home to go to religious services?

Large gatherings, such as church services, will be cancelled to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Can I leave home to exercise?

Yes. Outdoor exercise like running or taking a walk is perfectly acceptable; however, exercise gyms, fitness centers and associated facilities will be closed to reduce the spread of coronavirus. While exercising outside, you should still practice social distancing by running or walking at least six feet away from other people.

Can I pick up meals being provided by my child's school?

Yes. Schools that provide free food services to students will continue on a pick-up and take-home basis. However, if you are experiencing symptoms or are currently in isolation, you should stay at home and follow the guidelines provided by your physician.

Can I go out to do laundry?

Yes. Laundromats, dry cleaners and laundry service providers are considered essential businesses that will remain open. However, if you are experiencing symptoms or are currently in isolation, you should stay at home and follow the guidelines provide by your physician.

Can I take my child to day care?

If you are considered an essential worker under the Order, you can take your child to a day care that is licensed on an emergency basis for the purpose of childcare for essential workers. Licensed day care homes for up to 12 children will be closed but may reopen as an unlicensed day care home for up to 6 children.

Are Barber Shops and Salons Allowed to Remain Open?

No. Barber shops and salons are not included in “Essential Businesses” and operations must cease. Specifically, fitness and exercise gyms, spas, salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors and similar facilities are not considered “healthcare and public health operations.” Healthcare and public health operations may remain open.

What about Funeral Services?

Funeral services are deemed essential operations under the Governor’s Executive Order. However, gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited. This prohibition includes funeral services.

Are Liquor Stores Allowed to Remain Open?

Yes. Establishments engaged in the retail sale of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are deemed essential businesses and are allowed to remain open.

Are Restaurants Allowed to Remain Open?

Yes. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food may remain open but only for consumption off-premises through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-thru, curbside pick-up and carry-out. Additionally, schools and other entities that provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so on the condition that the food is provided on a pick-up and takeaway basis only.

Are Golf Courses Allowed to Remain Open?

No. Golf courses are places of public amusement, and operations must cease, except minimum basic operations.

Are Auto Dealerships Allowed to Remain Open?

Yes, to support “Essential Business” functions, which include auto rental, auto supply, auto repair and related facilities. Dealerships are permitted to sell automobiles. However, patrons shall schedule an appointment with the dealership and the dealership shall comply with social distancing requirements as defined in the Executive Order, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public at all times.

Are Accountants and CPA Offices Allowed to Remain Open?

Yes. The Governor’s Executive Order defines professional services as an essential business. “Professional Services” include legal services, accounting services, insurance services and real estate services (including appraisal and title services).

Are Banking and Other Financial Institutions Allowed to Remain Open?

Yes. Although individuals should only leave their homes to obtain necessary services, financial institutions are included as essential businesses. The definition of “Financial Institutions” includes banks, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited to: payday lenders, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions and institutions selling financial products.

Are Janitorial and Custodial Services Considered Essential?

Yes. Cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties are considered critical trades. Critical trades also include building and construction trades, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, and moving and relocation services.

Have the State or Federal Governments Extended the Income Tax Filing Deadline?

On March 20, President Trump announced that the U.S. Treasury Department would be extending the deadline to file federal taxes from April 15 to July 15, without interest or penalties assessed on filers. Further guidance is expected from the Internal Revenue Service regarding this issue. The State has not yet announced an extension for filing state income taxes.

May Manufacturing Entities Continue to Operate?

Yes, in part. Manufacturing entities may continue to operate if they manufacture essential products and provide services for industries such as, pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other “Essential Businesses and Operations.” Otherwise, manufacturers are limited to the “Minimum Basic Operations” requirement in the Executive Order.

May Landscaping and Lawn Service Businesses Continue to Operate?

Yes, in part. Landscaping businesses may operate in support of “Essential Businesses and Operations” and in support of the “Minimum Basic Operations” of non-essential businesses, in order to preserve the business’ physical plant. Residential landscaping services are not specifically addressed in the Order.

Will Public Parks Be Allowed to Remain Accessible?

Yes. The Governor’s Executive Order provides that individuals may leave their homes to engage in outdoor activity, while maintaining social distancing, which includes going to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. The public may access park properties. However, the Executive Order provides that playgrounds must be closed as they may increase the spread of the virus. Park facilities (i.e. restrooms, clubhouses and other buildings) may be deemed non-essential and are therefore closed to the public. On March 16, 2020, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced the closure of all state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational areas and historic sites.

Further Reading Pertaining to COVID 19:

State of Illinois COVID-19 Response, This site includes all of the Executive orders Relating to COVID-19, as well as tips for prevention, preparation, and an FAQ.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>

St. Clair County Emergency Management- This site updates St. Clair County’s response to COVID-19 regularly.

<https://www.facebook.com/stclaircoilema/>

Centers for Disease Control- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the leading national public health institute of the United States. It is a United States federal agency, under the Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

John's Hopkins University & Medicine- This site provides one of the best resources for reliable information about COVID-19.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>