

**Missouri Governor — Michael L.  
Parson** Office of Communications

**“STAY HOME MISSOURI”  
ORDER**

**GUIDANCE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS**

To further combat the spread of COVID-19 in Missouri, Governor Parson directed Dr. Randall Williams, Director of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, to issue a Stay at Home Order which is effective April 6, 2020.

This Order directs all Missourians to avoid leaving their residences unless necessary and to practice social distancing when they need to travel outside their homes to work, access foods, prescriptions, health care, and other necessities, or to engage in an outdoor activity. This Order does not require all businesses statewide to close or cease operation.

**Here are some examples of things you can do under  
this order:**

- Go to grocery, convenience, or warehouse stores
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medical appointments (check with your doctor or provider first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery, or drive-thru
- Go to a place of worship – just make sure that no more than 10 people are in any single space at one time and keep 6 feet of distance between you and others
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, fish, hunt, golf and be in nature for exercise – just keep six feet of distance between you and others
- Receive deliveries from any business which delivers

**Individuals shall not do the following  
things:**

- Visit state office buildings that are closed to the public
- Stand closer than 6 feet of distance from others
- Visit loved ones in nursing homes, long term care facilities, and assisted living homes, unless you are providing critical assistance

**Do work places that do not qualify as “essential” businesses have to close?**

No. Businesses that are not covered by the guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) discussed in the Order may remain open but must comply with the social gathering and social distance requirements of the Order. This means that no more than 10 individuals can occupy a single space, this includes both employees and customers. Individuals must also maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and others. Employees must also practice good hygiene and sanitation to limit the spread of COVID-19. Businesses are also encouraged to allow individuals, where feasible, to work from home to achieve optimum isolation.

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Businesses can seek a waiver of the social gathering requirements from the Director of the Department of Economic Development.

**What businesses are “essential” under this Order?**

The Order refers businesses to guidance by CISA to assist them in determining whether the work their employees do is considered “essential” during the COVID-19 response period. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Healthcare workers and caregivers
- Law enforcement, fire fighters, and first responders
- Government operations

- Mental health and Social Service workers
- Pharmacy employees
- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail sales of food and beverage products
- Restaurant carryout and quick-serve food operations and food delivery employees
- Farmworkers
- Electricity and Utility Industry Employees
- Critical Manufacturing Employees (medical supply chains, energy, transportation, food, chemicals)
- Petroleum, Natural and Propane Gas Workers
- Transportation and Logistics Workers
- Communications and Information Technology Employees

Workplaces that qualify as essential under the guidance may remain open. Workers onsite should take all necessary precautions to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including practicing social distancing except when performance of job duties require otherwise.

**Are there restrictions on essential businesses?**

Yes. Workplaces that qualify as essential under CISA guidelines and are engaged in retail sales to the public must limit the number of customers in each retail location to the following standards based on the workplace’s fire or building code occupancy:

- For smaller locations (less than 10,000 square feet), they must maintain 25 percent or less of the authorized occupancy;
- For larger locations (10,000 square feet or greater), they must maintain 10 percent or less of the authorized occupancy.

Employees at the workplace and vendors delivering products into the store are not included in this calculation and do not count toward occupancy limitations.

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**Are grocery stores considered a business “engaged in retail sales to the public”?**

Yes, and such store is subject to the occupancy limitations in the Order.

Grocery stores are strongly encouraged to set aside hours, outside of regular store hours, to allow third- party grocery delivery services to provide grocery shopping services for their customers. This will allow individual shoppers to shop during regular store hours, and reduce congestion during such times. This will further allow such services to function in an environment where their services may be in excessive demand.

Shoppers at all retail stores are also encouraged, when possible, to limit the number of people shopping in stores to 1 person per household at any one time. This will better enable all families to access necessary goods in grocery stores, and further reduce the number of individuals necessary to access such goods.

**My local jurisdiction does not have a building or fire code. Do the limitations on square footage apply to my retail business?**

Yes. If your business is not subject to fire or building code occupancy limitations set by your local jurisdiction, you should calculate your occupancy limits based on the following formula:

For a business with a retail location less than 10,000 square feet:

A. Building Square Feet divided by 30 =  
Quotient

B. Quotient x .25 = Occupancy  
Limit

For a business with the retail location of 10,000 square feet or more:

A. Building Square Feet divided by 30 =  
Quotient

B. Quotient x .10 = Occupancy  
Limit

Example  
s:

A 40,000 square foot grocery store would be able to have 133 customers in the store at any one time.

An 8,000 square foot retail store would be able to have 66 customers in the store at any one time.

**My local fire or building code occupancy limitation calculation is lower than that allowed for businesses without any fire or building code limits, or is lower than a neighboring jurisdictions fire or building code limitations. Can I apply the same formula for calculating occupancy for my business as those without a code?**

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Yes. You may use either the calculation set forth above for businesses without a fire or building code occupancy limitation, or the calculation applied to your business based upon your specific local jurisdiction fire and building code occupancy limitation, whichever is greater.

Examp  
le:

My 30,000 square foot retail business has a local jurisdiction fire or building occupancy limitation of 700 people. Using the formula allowing only 10% of the local jurisdiction, I would be able to have 70 customers in my store at any one time. For an identical business without a local fire or occupancy limitation, they would be able to have 100 customers in their store at any one time. Under this guidance, you may have up to 100 customers in your store at any one time.

My 6,000 square foot retail business has a local jurisdiction fire or building occupancy limitation of 150 people. Using the formula allowing only 25% of the local jurisdiction, I would be able to have 37 customers in my store at any one time. For an identical business without a local fire or

occupancy limitation, they would be able to have 50 customers in their store at any one time. Under this guidance, you may have up to 50 customers in your store at any one time.

**Can childcare places continue operations?**

Yes. Daycares, child care providers, or schools providing child care for working families can continue operations but should follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance targeted for those operations.

**Do restaurants have to close?**

No. Restaurants can be open for delivery, drive-thru, or carryout services as long as the other requirements of the Order are being followed and individuals are encouraged to use those options. Restaurants may provide dine-in services, but can only have 10 people or less within the restaurant for dining service and shall maintain at least 6 feet of distance between all individuals that are not family members. The 10 person limitation includes both employees and customers together.

**How will this order be enforced?**

The State is working with local health authorities to support the order. Local health authorities and law enforcement maintain the same jurisdiction and authority they have always had.

**Can my local health authority impose more restrictive requirements?**

Yes. This Order establishes the minimum requirements that must be complied with statewide. Local health authorities may enforce more restrictive public health requirements for businesses or individuals.

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**When is the Stay at Home order going to be**

**lifted?**

The Stay at Home order is in place until late evening on Friday April 24, 2020. The Order will be re- evaluated before it expires to make sure it does not need to be restricted or extended.



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

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RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired and Voice dial: 711

**Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG**  
Director



**Michael L. Parson**  
Governor

April 3, 2020

The Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, finding it necessary to protect public health and prevent the further spread of COVID-19, pursuant to the authority granted under section 192.020, RSMo, and 19 CSR 20-20.040, hereby order the following:

1. Individuals currently residing within the State of Missouri shall avoid leaving their homes or places of residence. When individuals need to leave their homes or places of residence to work, to access food, prescriptions, health care, and other necessities, or to engage in outdoor activity, they should at all times practice social distancing. Individuals may also go to and from an individual's place of worship, provided that limitations on social gatherings and social distancing are properly adhered to.
2. Any entity that does not employ individuals to perform essential worker functions, as set forth in guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) outlined at [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_the\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workforce\\_Version\\_2.0\\_Updated.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf) shall adhere to the limitations on social gatherings and social distancing set forth in sections 4 and 5 of this Order. Entities that do not employ individuals to perform essential worker functions may request a waiver from the limitation on social gatherings, as set forth in section 4 of this Order, from the Director of the Department of Economic Development, on a form prescribed by the Director. For offices and workplaces that remain open, individuals shall practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19.
3. Any entity that employs individuals to perform essential worker functions, as set forth in section 2 of this Order, and that is engaged in retail sales to the public, shall limit the number of individuals in any particular retail location as follows:
  - (1) Twenty-five (25) percent or less of the entity's authorized fire or building code occupancy, as set by local authorities, for a retail location with square footage of less than ten thousand square feet (10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>);
  - (2) Ten (10) percent or less of the entity's authorized fire or building code occupancy, as set by local authorities, for a retail location with square footage of ten thousand square feet (10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) or more.
4. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all individuals in the State of Missouri shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people. For purposes of this Order, "social gatherings" shall mean any planned or spontaneous event or convening that would bring together more than ten (10) people in a single space at the same time.

[www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov)

**Healthy Missourians for life.**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for health.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

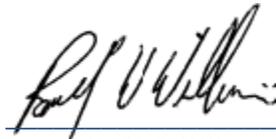
5. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person and business in the State of Missouri shall abide by social distancing requirements, including maintaining six feet (6') of space between individuals. This provision shall not apply to family members or individuals performing essential worker functions, as set forth in section 2 of this Order, whose job duties require contact with other people closer than six feet (6'). This provision shall apply in all situations, including, but not limited to, when customers are standing in line or individuals are using shared indoor or outdoor spaces when outside their residence.
6. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall close and remain closed. Notwithstanding section 2 of this Order, nothing in this Order shall prohibit daycares, child care providers, or schools from providing child care for working families in accordance with CDC guidelines found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>. Further, this Order does not prohibit schools from providing Food and Nutritional Services for those children that qualify. School teachers and school staff may enter the building as long as they follow the directives set forth in this Order. Further guidance related to the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic school year will be forthcoming from the Governor and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
7. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid eating or drinking at restaurants, bars, or food courts; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed throughout the duration of this Order.
8. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance.
9. Pursuant to section 44.101, RSMo, this Order shall not be construed to prohibit or restrict the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition during the declared state of emergency, subject to the provisions set forth herein.
10. All state office buildings are closed to the public; however, essential state functions shall continue. This provision shall not apply to the State Capitol Building during meetings or proceedings of the General Assembly.

This Order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services, such as grocery stores, gas stations, and banks, or engaging in outdoor recreation, provided that necessary precautions are taken and maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including observing social gathering and social distancing requirements set forth in sections 4 and 5 of this Order. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this Order will expire.

Pursuant to section 192.290, RSMo, this Order shall be observed throughout the state and enforced by all local and state health authorities; provided however, nothing herein shall limit the right of local authorities to make such further ordinances, rules, regulations, and orders not inconsistent with this Order which may be necessary for the particular locality under the jurisdiction of such local authorities.

Local public health authorities are hereby directed to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Order by any legal means.

This Order shall be in effect beginning 12:01 A.M., Monday, April 6, 2020, and shall remain in effect until 11:59 P.M., Friday, April 24, 2020, unless extended by further order of the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services with said extensions not to exceed the duration of the effective period of Executive Order 20-02.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall W. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG  
Director