



Stay Home Stay Safe Order

Governor Scott has [amended his declaration on 3/24/20](#) to be a "stay at home" order. The Governor has ordered all non-essential/non-critical businesses to shut down and directs all non-essential residents of the state to remain at home throughout the duration of the order, leaving only for essential reasons. While we cannot provide legal advice on whether your specific business can stay open, we can steer you in the right direction.

This order directs all non-essential residents of the state to remain at home throughout the duration of the order, leaving "only for essential reasons such as: personal safety; groceries or medicine; curbside pick-up of goods, meals or beverages; medical care; exercise; care of others; and work, as set forth further below. Vermonters shall significantly restrict normal activities outside the home or place of residence, consistent with CDC guidance, to help stop the spread of the virus". It also orders the closure of all in-person aspects of non-essential businesses.

Click here for [Essential Businesses](#)

Services or functions in Vermont deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security include:

This list is not all-inclusive. Rather it's meant to serve as a quick reference for VRGA members. To see the full list, see "Essential Businesses" link above.

- health care operations such as COVID-19 testing and clinical research, hospital personnel and other healthcare providers, public health workers and other healthcare service providers, laboratory services, caregivers, logistics, technology, security and custodial support, blood and plasma donors and mortuary services;
- law enforcement, public safety and first responders, including fire, ambulance services, emergency medical technicians and emergency management personnel;
- critical infrastructure including utilities, telecommunication, airports and transportation infrastructure;
- construction necessary to support the COVID-19 response and maintain critical infrastructure;
- critical manufacturing, including food and animal feed manufacturing, processing and supply, pharmaceuticals and other manufacturing necessary to support the COVID-19 response as well as economic and national security;
- retail serving basic human needs such as grocery stores, pharmacies, other retail that sells food, beverage, animal feed and essential supplies, provided, these retail operations shall be conducted through on-line and telephone orders for delivery and curb-side pickup to the extent possible;
- fuel products and supply;
- hardware stores, provided, these retail operations shall be conducted through online and telephone orders for delivery and curb-side pickup to the extent possible;
- transportation sector and agricultural sector equipment parts, repair and maintenance, provided these retail operations shall be conducted through on-line and telephone orders for delivery and curb-side pickup to the extent possible;
- trash collection and disposal, recycling and operations and maintenance of drinking water and wastewater/drainage infrastructure;
- agriculture and farms, animal shelters, production and delivery of seed, chemicals and fertilizers, CSAs and veterinarians;
- lodging, to the extent required to support COVID-19 response, critical

- infrastructure and national security;
- other building and property services for the safety, sanitation and operations of residences or other businesses;
- mail and shipping services;
- news media;
- banks and related financial institutions, provided, however, routine retail banking operations shall be limited to transactions conducted through automated teller machines, drive-through services and online and telephone services; providers of necessities and services to economically disadvantaged populations; and
- other vendors of technical, security, logistics, custodial and equipment repair and maintenance services necessary to support the COVID-19 response, critical, infrastructure and national security.

Businesses are expected to make their best effort, concurrent with ability, to switch to curbside pickup or delivery in order to minimize customer contact and slow the spread of the virus. If they must have customers in store, it is expected that they follow all CDC and VDH guidance for social distancing and sanitation possible, including, to the extent possible:

- a. maintaining a distance of 6 feet between persons;*
- b. requiring employees to practice appropriate hygiene measures, including regular, thorough handwashing;*
- c. requiring employees who are sick remain home; and d. regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.*