

# June 11, 2020 Executive Order Providing Additional Guidance for Empowering a Healthy Georgia in Response to COVID-19 and its Impact on County Governments

On May 28, 2020, Governor Kemp issued an Executive Order (05.28.20.01) that extended the Public Health State of Emergency until July 12, 2020 at 11:59 P.M. It also adopted by reference prior Executive Orders 03.14.20.01 and 04.08.20.02 and extended the effectiveness of Executive Orders 04.08.20.03 (guidance for nursing homes) and 04.08.20.05 (use of National Guard in response efforts) for an additional 45 days respectively until July 12, 2020 at 11:59 P.M. The May 28, 2020 Executive Order's guidance for businesses and local governments remains in effect until June 15, 2020 at 11:59 P.M and is the subject of ACCG Guidance issued June 1, 2020.

On June 11, 2020, Governor Kemp also issued an extensive Executive Order (06.11.20.01) that extends, with some modifications, the requirements set forth in Executive Order 04.23.20.02, Executive Order 05.20.20.02, and Executive Order 05.28.20.02, all of which provided operational mandates and recommendations to various categories of businesses going forward. The June 11, 2020 Executive Order becomes effective June 16, 2020 and remains in effect through June 30, 2020 at 11:59 P.M.<sup>1</sup>

The summary below prepared by the ACCG Legal Department explains the provisions of the June 11, 2020 Executive Order that directly impact county governments. Unless indicated otherwise, all references below to 'the Executive Order' refer to the June 11, 2020 Executive Order.

## Social Distancing in or on County Government Property.

The Executive Order largely extends, through June 30, 2020 at 11:59 P.M., Social Distancing requirements that have been in place since April 3, 2020; however, the new order makes a significant change. Counties

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Although not addressed in this guidance, the Shelter in Place requirements for vulnerable populations remain in effect until June 30, 2020 at 11:59 P.M. Those subject to the Shelter in Place requirements under the June 11 Executive Order include those persons who: have chronic lung disease; have moderate to severe asthma; have severe heart disease; immunocompromised due to cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medication, etc.; of any age, with class III or severe obesity (i.e., those with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or higher); have been diagnosed with diabetes; have been diagnosed with liver disease; have been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; and/or live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements, and community integration homes. The Shelter in Place requirements for persons 65 or older will expire June 15, 2020 at 11:59 P.M., unless such persons fall into one or more of the categories listed above.

(as well as cities and businesses) may not allow more than **fifty** (**50**)<sup>2</sup> persons to physically gather at a single location if doing so would require persons to sit or stand within six (6) feet of each other (defined as a "Gathering"). While the Executive Order is not clear on this point, it appears the above prohibition, as applied to county and governments, applies to Gatherings on county and property (as opposed to imposing a regulatory requirement on counties to ensure that no such gatherings happen on private property).

This prohibition on gatherings does not apply to:

- Groupings of more than 50 persons that are "transitory" or "incidental;"<sup>3</sup>
- Gatherings of cohabiting persons, family units, or roommates, whether gathering inside or outside of their homes or place of residence; or
- Entities involved in Critical Infrastructure.

# **County Ordinances and Orders.**

The June 11, 2020 Executive Order continues the broad preemption of local authority to regulate matters related to the current Public Health State of Emergency. While the Order authorizes county governments to "make, amend, and rescind such orders, rules, and regulations as may be necessary for emergency purposes and to supplement the carrying out of this Order," it then provides that: (1) such county orders, rules, or regulations "shall not be inconsistent with this Order" or any other order of the Governor or state agency acting under their emergency powers; and (2) any county orders, rules, or regulations that are "more or less restrictive than the terms of this Order shall be considered inconsistent with this Order." Thus, it is unclear whether the Executive Order allows any county action regarding the current Public Health State of Emergency, outside of perhaps county regulations designed to assist in enforcement of the terms of the Executive Order. ACCG strongly encourages counties to consult with their county attorneys prior to taking any specific actions on subjects covered by this Executive Order.

#### **Enforcement.**

Violation of the June 11, 2020 Executive Order is a misdemeanor. Any local law enforcement officials (sheriff's offices and county police departments) are authorized to enforce the terms of this Executive Order. Such law enforcement officials should take reasonable steps to provide notice prior to issuing a citation or making an arrest.

In addition, any law enforcement officer is authorized, after providing reasonable notice and issuing at least two citations, to mandate closure of any business or organization that is not in compliance with this Executive Order.

Sheriffs and police chiefs with specific questions on enforcement should contact the Georgia Sheriffs Association and/or the Georgia Police Chiefs Association for further guidance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Under prior Executive Orders, the threshold number of persons triggering the requirement first was 10 and then 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Transitory" and "incidental" are not defined in the Order.

# **County Boards of Equalization**

The June 11, 2020 Executive Order continues to provide "that for purposes of Code Section 48-5-311(e)(6A)<sup>4</sup>, 'in-person' appearances before county boards of equalization may occur via remote communications, including, but not limited to, video teleconference."

The order does not address other instances in law which provide for public hearings or appearances, perhaps because those other laws do not specifically refer to 'in-person' participation.

# County Government Eligibility for State Funds and Reporting Requirements Under the May 12, 2020 Executive Order.

Although the May 12, 2020 Executive Order continued the suspension of various state statutes that impose reporting or filing requirements on local governments and that impact local governments' eligibility for state funds, the second May 28, 2020 Executive Order and the June 11 Executive Order omit any reference to these requirements. These suspended requirements (under the terms of the May 12 Executive Order) were tied to the Public Health State of Emergency, which is now set to expire on July 15, 2020 at 11:59 P.M. (under the terms of the first May 28, 2020 Executive Order), subject to further action by the Governor, and thus the suspensions/extensions described below remain in effect.

- Annual Audits. The deadline for filing annual local government audits is extended by ninety (90) days for any local government whose existing audit deadline fell/falls either during the declared Public Health State of Emergency or within 90 days after that State of Emergency is terminated.
- Reports of Local Government Finances and Local Authority Debt Issuance Reports. The deadline
  for filing the annual Report of Local Government Finances as well as the deadline for local
  authorities to file annual indebtedness reports is extended by ninety (90) days for any local
  government or authority whose existing deadline fell/falls either during the declared Public
  Health State of Emergency or within 90 days after that State of Emergency is terminated.
- <u>Grant Certifications</u>. The deadline for filing certifications relating to expenditure of state grant funds is extended by ninety (90) days for any local government or authority whose existing deadline fell/falls either during the declared Public Health State of Emergency or within 90 days after that State of Emergency is terminated.

# County Government Eligibility for State Funds and Reporting Requirements Under the May 28, 2020 and June 11 Executive Orders.

The May 28, 2020 and June 11 Executive Orders makes specific reference only to the suspension of requirements under O.C.G.A. Sections 36-70-27 and 50-8-8 that impose reporting or filing requirements on local governments and that impact local governments' eligibility for state funds. These suspended requirements are tied to the Public Health State of Emergency, which is now set to expire on July 15, 2020 at 11:59 P.M., subject to further action by the Governor.

<u>Service Delivery Strategies/Comprehensive Plans.</u> The penalties for failing to file Service Delivery Strategies and/or Comprehensive Plans by their respective deadlines are suspended specifically to allow local governments to be eligible for state funding for expenditures that are made during the Public Health State of Emergency and are related to the prevention, treatment, or mitigation of COVID-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The correct citation is O.C.G.A. 48-5-311(e)(6)(A) and not (6A).

#### **County Procurement.**

The June 11, 2020 Executive Order adds a new provision that suspends original signature and raised corporate seal requirements related to 1) construction surety bonds under O.C.G.A. Sections 13-10-40 through 65, 32-2-70, 36-91-1, 36-91-2, 36-91-50, and 36-91-70 through 93 and 2) commercial surety bonds required or permitted "under numerous other statutes", for the limited purpose of providing that public procurement officers are required to accept electronic signatures and electronic corporate seals under O.C.G.A. Sections 10-12-2 et seq. and 33-24-14. Any construction surety bond or commercial surety bond may be executed electronically if notarized pursuant to Executive Order 04.09.20.01 and, if requested by the procurement officer, the original is provided within 7 business days.

## **County Government Programs Generally.**

If a county uses volunteers or has members of the public participate in activities, it must prohibit persons diagnosed with COVID-19, having exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, or having had contact with a person that has or is suspected to have COVID-19 within the past fourteen days from volunteering or participating in activities.

#### **Swimming Pools and Live Performance Venues.**

The June 11 Executive Order does not include specific requirements for public swimming pools. However, swimming pool operations are subject to the Social Distancing requirements described above. In addition, counties should follow the Georgia Department of Health's guidance on the operation of swimming pools. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also published measures that should be considered in pool operations. While these separate guidance documents are referenced in the June 11, 2020 Executive Order with regard to water parks (see the next section below), as noted above, that Order does not otherwise refer to requirements for public swimming pools.

Under the June 11, 2020 Executive Order, counties with live performance venues may not engage in inperson operation of those venues until July 1, 2020. An exception exists for performances at which patrons remain in a motor vehicle or a restricted area surrounding that vehicle, provided that the facility follows the guidelines for non-Critical Infrastructure (described below). Live performance venues must adhere to non-Critical Infrastructure requirements if the operation (recording sessions, live streaming, practices, fanless competitions, and rehearsals) does NOT allow members of the public to be present. If members of the public attend, live performances venues (beginning July 1, 2020) are subject to various requirements depending on the size classification (tier) of the venue. Tier 1 - 999 or fewer; Tier 2 – 1,000 to 4,999; and Tier 3 – 500 or more.  $^{5}$ 

#### Water Parks.

The June 11, 2020 Executive Order provides that water parks may commence operations on June 12, 2020. The term 'water park' is not defined for purposes of the Order. Many counties have aquatic centers and these facilities could possibly be construed as water parks. If your county has a water park (or an aquatic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> If a county has a live performance venue, it should consult pages 32-35 of the June 11 Executive Order for the applicable requirements.

center) see pages 20-23 of the Order for the required operational measures. Those measures also apply to amusement rides, carnivals, and other similar operations, and some will be inapplicable to county water parks. While all the measures should be reviewed for applicability, the June 11, 2020 Order does include some measures specific to water parks and water amusement rides:

- Ensure pool water is treated in accordance with Georgia Department of Public Health regulations
  as well as applicable county pool ordinance or board of health regulations;
- 2. Utilize a timed or controlled entry system to limit patron distancing in pools to allow for Social Distancing and have workers regularly monitor capacity;
- 3. Not opening wave pools and other rides or attractions where capacity, wave thrust, and Social Distancing cannot be effectively managed; and
- 4. Follow applicable guidance from the <u>Georgia Department of Public Health</u> and <u>Centers for Disease</u> Control and Prevention on managing public swimming pools.

#### **Recreational Sports Programs.**

The May 28 and June 11 Executive Orders do not reference or impose any specific restriction on recreational sports leagues and activities, such as are commonly hosted or run through county parks departments. However, each of those Orders contain a provision<sup>6</sup> requiring that amateur sports teams and amateur sports organizations<sup>7</sup> that continue with in-person operation must adhere to the guidelines for non-Critical Infrastructure (see below), which include prohibition of Gatherings of more than 50 people at a single location. Further, this Order provides that any previous executive order or departmental rule which would prevent such teams or organizations from operating while adhering to the guidelines for non-Critical Infrastructure is suspended. It is unclear whether recreational sports leagues and activities are meant to be governed by these requirements for amateur sports teams and organizations.

# **High School and College Sports.**

The June 11 Executive Order provides that collegiate and high school sports teams and organizations (as well as the venues hosting games, practices, etc.) that engage in practices, games, or other in-person activities must operate solely pursuant to the rules or guidelines of their applicable conference or association.

# Gyms and Fitness Centers.

The April 23, 2020 Executive Order allowed county-owned or county-operated gyms and fitness centers to re-open as of May 1, 2020, provided that certain measures are implemented. The May 12 and May 28, 2020 Executive Orders relaxed some of those requirements beginning May 14, 2020. Of note, the May 12, 2020 Executive Order lifted the previous prohibition of group classes and in-facility child-care and allowed for the reopening of pools, basketball courts, other group sports areas, and tanning beds. As used below and elsewhere in this Guidance, the term "Workers" include employees, independent contractors, agents,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Section 5, p.21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Order does not define the terms "amateur sports teams" or "amateur sports organizations".

volunteers, and other representatives of an entity. The requirements for Gyms and Fitness Centers under the June 11, 2020 Executive Order are:

- Placing signage at any entrance to instruct patrons that they cannot enter if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, had symptoms of COVID-19, or had contact with a person that has or is suspected to have COVID-19;
- 2. Placing signage at any entrance and throughout the facility to instruct patrons of the enhanced sanitation procedures, Social Distancing requirements, and other instructions and limitations, as applicable, set forth below;
- 3. If workers are present at the gym or fitness center, they must screen patrons at the entrance. Patrons may not enter the gym or fitness center if they exhibit any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea;
- 4. Limiting occupancy to enforce Social Distancing requirements and to prohibit Gatherings (see definitions in the first section of this Guidance);
- 5. Utilizing contactless forms of patron check-in;
- 6. Providing hand sanitizer stations, as available, for patrons;
- 7. Providing antibacterial sanitation wipes, as available, at or near equipment and requiring users to wipe down the equipment before and after use;
- 8. Requiring workers, if any, to patrol patron areas to enforce the equipment wipe-down policy and conduct additional cleanings during times when equipment is not being used;
- 9. Limiting use of cardio machines to every other machine or distancing machines to maintain acceptable Social Distancing between users;
- 10. Enforcing Social Distancing and prohibiting congregating between non-cohabiting patrons, especially in pools, group fitness classes, and in area where group sports regularly occur;
- 11. Encouraging patrons to conduct their workout and exit the facility without unnecessary delay;
- 12. Complying with the Executive Order's regulations for Childcare Facilities, if childcare services are provided;
- 13. Requiring workers to clean and sanitize high touch surfaces, bathrooms, and locker rooms regularly throughout the opening hours in addition to the regular cleaning schedule;
- 14. Prohibiting patrons from sharing equipment without cleaning and sanitizing between uses;
- 15. Practicing Social Distancing between trainers and patrons as practicable;
- 16. Requiring no less than ten (10) feet of distance between patrons participating in group fitness classes; and
- 17. Requiring rooms and equipment used for group fitness classes to be disinfected between classes.

#### Summer Camps.

The May 12, 2020 Executive Order added restrictions and requirements for summer day camps (i.e., organized sessions of supervised recreational, athletic, or instructional activities held between school

terms). These are continued by the May 28 and June 11, 2020 Executive Orders. Effective June 1, 2020, overnight camps are permissible. Summer day camps and overnight camps are required to follow the guidelines for non-Critical Infrastructure (below) and must implement the following measures:

- 1. Placing signage at any entrance to instruct campers that they cannot enter if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, or had contact with a person that has or is suspected to have COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- 2. Placing signage at any entrance and throughout the facility to instruct campers of the enhanced sanitation procedures, Social Distancing requirements, and other instructions and limitations, as applicable, set forth below.
- 3. Screening campers at drop-off and preventing any camper from entering that exhibit any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- 4. Requiring that any persons exhibiting any of the symptoms in no. 3 at any time while at the summer day camp to be separated from the group immediately and to leave the camp facility as soon as practicable.
- 5. Requiring any worker or camper that has stayed home sick, been prevented from entering camp due to symptoms described above, or been sent home during camp due to such symptoms may not be permitted to attend camp again until they have either had a negative COVID-19 test or have been fever and fever medication free for seventy-two (72) hours, other symptoms have improved, and at least ten (10) days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- 6. Requiring parents dropping-off and picking-up campers to remain in their vehicles.
- 7. Utilizing contactless forms of camper check-in and check-out.
- 8. Implementing staggered drop-off and pick-up times, with specific times for eachgroup of campers, if practicable.
- 9. Providing hand sanitizer to campers as soon as practicable upon drop-off.
- 10. Prohibiting unnecessary visitors to camp activities and facilities.
- 11. Discontinuing camp tours.
- 12. Providing training to workers on how to identify symptoms of illness in campers, the proper processes for removing a potentially ill camper, and the infection mitigation procedures to perform in such an event.
- 13. Providing an isolation area for sick workers or campers.
- 14. To the extent necessary, limiting groups to 25 persons or less, including workers and campers, in a space where all persons gathered cannot maintain at least six (6) feet of distance

between themselves and any other person.8

- 15. To the extent possible, keeping the same workers and campers in the same group for the duration of the camp.
- 16. Enforcing Social Distancing between groups, prohibiting Gatherings of more than 50 people unless six feet of separation can be maintained, and prohibiting congregating among Campers belonging to different groups.
- 17. Providing a separate designated space for each camper to store personal belongings throughout the duration of the camp.
- 18. Prohibiting use of camp facilities and equipment that are not able to be regularly sanitized.
- 19. To the extent possible, allowing only one group to use camp equipment at a time.
- 20. Sanitizing camp equipment after each group use.
- 21. Requiring workers to patrol camp areas to enforce the equipment sanitization policy and conduct additional cleanings during times when equipment is not being used.
- 22. If swimming facilities are available, allowing each group to swim only once per day and staggering swimming times to avoid crowding at the swimming facilities.
- 23. If camp facilities are also open to other patrons, prohibiting contact between campers and the facility's other patrons and requiring sanitization before and after camp use of any such shared facilities.
- 24. Providing hand sanitizer stations for campers and requiring regular use.
- 25. Requiring campers to wash or sanitize their hands during each group restroom break, snack break, and meal break.
- 26. For day camps, if possible, requiring campers to bring their own lunch and snacks with them to camp each day, with all such food items being in a sealed lunch bag marked with the camper's name.
- 27. Requiring all dining facilities to follow the criteria for restaurant dine-in services set forth in Section IV of the June 11, 2020 Executive Order to the extent practicable.
- 28. Requiring workers to wear gloves when helping campers open items from meals and snacks.
- 29. If camp vehicles are used for transporting campers to and from on or off-site activities, requiring workers to sanitize each vehicle before and after use.
- 30. Requiring workers to clean and sanitize bathrooms and all frequently touched surfaces regularly throughout the opening hours in addition to the regular cleaning schedule. Shared

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> An apparent exception to the 50-person threshold under the new social distancing requirement.

restrooms must be sanitized no less than twice per day.

- 31. Providing masks or other Personal Protective Equipment to workers as available and appropriate to the function and location of workers within the camp facility.
- 32. Providing masks or other Personal Protective Equipment to campers as available and appropriate to the activity and location of campers within the camp facility.

# **Overnight Summer Camps.**

In addition to following the Summer Camp requirements in the previous section, Overnight Summer Camps must implement the following measures:

- Testing all campers and workers for COVID-19 symptoms prior to beginning an Overnight Summer Camp. Participation is prohibited unless a negative test result has been received within twelve days prior to beginning the camp. Anyone receiving a positive test result is prohibited access until A) fever free for 72 hours, symptoms have shown progressive improvement, and 10 days have elapsed since symptoms began; OR B) until 10 days have elapsed since a laboratory-confirmed positive test result.
- 2. Screening workers and campers each morning and evening. Persons exhibiting symptoms (see item no. 3 of the Summer Camp section) shall be separated from the group immediately and must leave the camp facility as soon as practicable.
- 3. Requiring workers to clean and sanitize overnight bunk rooms at least once per day.
- 4. Sanitizing bunks and bunk mattresses at least once per week and before and after use by a new worker or camper.
- 5. Limiting camp occupancy to the extent necessary to maintain overnight bunk room occupancy at 25 persons or less per room, including workers and campers.
- 6. Arranging beds and bunk beds in overnight bunk rooms so that beds are 6 feet apart and in a foot-to-foot style, to the extent possible.
- 7. Requiring a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse to be on site during all times that campers are present at the camp facility, to the extent practicable.
- 8. Campers and workers who stay overnight cannot leave the premises except in case of emergency or for an off-site activity that is part of the camp program without receiving an additional negative test result prior to reentry. Any Campers or workers that with known exposure to COVID-19 are barred access until 14 days have elapsed since the last known exposure. Workers who do not stay overnight are not subject to such re-entry testing but must wear a face covering and practice Social Distancing while on the camp premises.

#### Critical Infrastructure.

The June 11, 2020 Executive Order continues, through 11:59 P.M. on June 30, 2020, the prohibition against county and other local governments impeding the operation of any Critical Infrastructure by ordinance.

Certain services of county government are defined by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security as "essential critical infrastructure workforce" and, accordingly, are exempt from the social distancing requirements as noted above. Examples of county government departments or employees falling into this Critical Infrastructure category are listed below. A complete list may be found in the <u>U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency guidance most recently revised April 17, 2020.</u>

County government departments or employees falling into this category include:

- 1. Employees who manage health plans, billing and health information, who cannot work remotely.
- 2. Employees and volunteers in emergency management, law enforcement, fire and rescue services, emergency medical service, jails, correctional institutions, search and rescue.
- 3. Employees at 9-1-1 call centers and public safety answering points who cannot perform their duties remotely.
- 4. Employees that maintain equipment and services supporting law enforcement emergency service and response operations.
- 5. Employees responding to abuse and neglect of children, elders, and dependent adults.
- 6. Employees who support weather disaster and natural hazard mitigation and prevention activities.
- 7. Security staff maintaining building access control and physical security measures.
- 8. Employees in cafeterias used to feed employees, particularly employee populations sheltered against COVID-19.
- 9. Employees essential for food assistance programs and government payments.
- 10. Employees needed to operate and maintain drinking water and wastewater/drainage infrastructure.
- 11. Employees supporting or enabling transportation functions, including bus drivers, dispatchers, maintenance and repair technicians, intermodal transportation personnel, and workers that maintain and inspect infrastructure.
- 12. Mass transit employees, employees providing critical transit services, and/or critical or routine maintenance to mass transit infrastructure or equipment.
- 13. Employees supporting car sharing services.
- 14. Vehicle maintenance employees.
- 15. Employees supporting the operation, inspection, and maintenance of essential public works facilities and operations, including bridges, water and sewer main breaks, fleet maintenance personnel, construction of critical or strategic infrastructure, traffic signal maintenances, emergency location services for buried utilities, maintenance of digital systems infrastructure supporting public works operations, and other emergent issues.

- 16. Employees who support the availability and access to needed facilities, transportation, energy and communications, such as road clearing.
- 17. Network operations staff including information technology managers and staff, security personnel, HVAC and electrical engineers, software and hardware engineers, and database administrators that manage the network or operate facilities.
- 18. Engineers, technicians, and other employees responsible for infrastructure construction and restoration.
- 19. Central office personnel to maintain and operate central office, data centers, and other network facilities and critical support personnel assisting front line employees
- 20. Customer service and support staff.
- 21. External affairs personnel.
- 22. Employees who support command centers.
- 23. Data center operators.
- 24. Employees who support communication systems and information technology and work from home solutions used by law enforcement, public safety, and public works.
- 25. Employees who ensure the continuity of building functions.
- 26. Elections personnel.
- 27. Employees supporting the operations of the judicial system.
- 28. Employees who support mission essential functions and communications networks.
- 29. Employees supporting Census 2020.
- 30. Employees who maintain digital infrastructure supporting other critical government operations.
- 31. Employees who support necessary credentialing, vetting, and licensing operations for critical infrastructure workers.
- 32. Employees who perform title search, notary and recording services in support of mortgage and real estate services and transactions.
- 33. Employees of the animal shelter.
- 34. Employees who support food, shelter, and social services for needy groups and individuals, including in need populations and COVID-19 responders.
- 35. Employees providing support to the elderly and disable populations.
- 36. Employees supporting the construction of housing.
- 37. Any other employee or department identified by the Department of Homeland Security as "essential critical infrastructure workforce" in its guidance dated March 19, 2020 and revised on March 28, 2020 and April 17, 2020.

County governments must implement measures which mitigate exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its Critical Infrastructure workforce. "Workers" is defined to include employees, independent contractors, agents, volunteers, and other representatives of an entity. Through June 30, 2020, these measures may include, but are not limited to, the following requirements for critical departments and workers:

- 1. Screening and evaluating workers exhibiting any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- 2. Requiring workers exhibiting any of the above symptoms to not report to work or to seek medical attention.
- 3. Enhancing sanitation of the workplace as appropriate.
- 4. Disinfecting common surfaces regularly.
- 5. Requiring hand washing or sanitation by workers at appropriate places within the business location.
- 6. Prohibiting Gatherings of more than 50 workers during work hours.
- 7. Permitting workers to take breaks and meals outside, in their office or personal workspace, or in other areas where at least six feet of space may be maintained.
- 8. Implementing teleworking for all workers when possible.
- 9. Implementing staggered shifts for all workers when possible.
- 10. Holding all meetings and conferences virtually whenever possible.
- 11. Delivering intangible services remotely whenever possible.
- 12. Discouraging workers from using another worker's phone, desk, office, work tools, or equipment.
- 13. Prohibiting handshaking and other unnecessary person-to-person contact in the workplace.
- 14. If in use, open sales registers must be at least six feet apart.
- 15. Point of sale equipment, including personal identification number (PIN) pads; PIN entry devices; electronic signature capture; and any other credit card signature capture devices, should be frequently cleaned and sanitized.
- 16. Placing notices that encourage hand hygiene at the entrance of the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

#### Non-Critical Infrastructure.

Through June 30, 2020 (unless extended by the Governor), county governments are required to comply with the following requirements for workers who do not fall into the definition of Critical Infrastructure Workforce (see above):

- Screening and evaluating workers exhibiting any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- 2. Posting a sign on the front of the facility stating that individuals who have any of the above symptoms of COVID-19 may not enter the facility.
- 3. Requiring workers exhibiting any of the above symptoms to not report to work or to seek medical attention.

- 4. Enhancing sanitation as appropriate.
- 5. Disinfecting common surfaces regularly.
- 6. Requiring hand washing or sanitation at appropriate places at the work location.
- 7. Prohibiting Gatherings of more than 50 people during hours of operation unless at least six feet may be maintained between persons.
- 8. Permitting workers to take breaks and meals outside, in their office or personal workspace, or in other areas where at least six feet of space may be maintained.
- 9. Implementing teleworking when practicable.
- 10. Implementing staggered shifts when practicable.
- 11. Holding all meetings and conferences virtually, as practicable.
- 12. Delivering intangible services remotely as practicable.
- 13. Discouraging workers from using another worker's phone, desk, office, work tools, or equipment.
- 14. Prohibiting handshaking and other unnecessary person to person contact.
- 15. Placing notices that encourage hand hygiene at the entrance of the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
- 16. Frequently disinfecting personal identification number (PIN) pads, PIN entry devices, electronic signature capture and any other credit card signature capture devices.
- 17. Providing alternative points of contact to provide services, such as outside of the building.
- 18. Point of sale equipment should be frequently cleaned and sanitized.
- 19. Increasing physical distance between workers and patrons.
- 20. If the local government has volunteers or members of the public participate in activities, prohibiting volunteering or participation in activities for persons diagnosed with COVID-19, having exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, or having had contact with a person that has or is suspected to have COVID-19 within the past fourteen days.

In addition, non-critical infrastructure locations should implement the following non-mandatory measures, if practicable:

- A. Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) as available and as appropriate to the function and location of the worker.
- B. Providing disinfectant and sanitation products for workers to clean their workspace, equipment, and tools.
- C. Increasing physical space between workers' worksites to at least six feet.

#### Other County Employee Issues.

County employees and other workers, like other Georgia residents and visitors, in the following categories are required to Shelter in Place through June 30, 2020:

- 1. Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements, and community integration homes.
- 2. Those persons who have chronic lung disease.
- 3. Those persons who have moderate to severe asthma.
- 4. Those persons who have severe heart disease.
- 5. Those persons who are immunocompromised due to cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medication, etc.
- 6. Those persons, of any age, with class III or severe obesity (i.e., those with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or higher). For a BMI calculator, see the <a href="CDC's website">CDC's website</a>.
- 7. Those persons diagnosed with diabetes.
- 8. Those persons diagnosed with liver disease.
- 9. Those persons with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis.

#### Impact of Other Aspects of the Order.

As county governing authorities have no discretion or authority over the shelter in place, minimum basic operations for businesses not deemed Critical Infrastructure, or requirements for businesses to open to the public, ACCG is not providing interpretation of these portions of the order. ACCG recommends that questions from the business community be directed to the trade association or regulatory board for the particular business. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Economic Development has created <u>Guidelines for Businesses</u>. Citizens and businesses with questions may also call the COVID-19 Hotline at 844.442.2681.

# Questions.

Questions about the applicability or enforcement of the Executive Order to a particular county should be directed to the county attorney.