

Governor Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of **Tuesday, March 24th at noon until Tuesday, April 7th at noon**. These businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely.

Key Points

- Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited.
- The majority of "brick and mortar" work settings will be closed as a result of the order.
- To ensure key services continue in the Commonwealth, Governor Baker has established several exceptions to the workplace closures.

Essential Services That Will Be Allowed To Continue

- Restaurants, bars, and other establishments that sell food and beverage products to the public are encouraged to continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery if they follow the social distancing protocols set forth in Department of Public Health guidance continue operations. On-premises consumption of food or drink is prohibited.
- **HEALTHCARE / PUBLIC HEALTH / HUMAN SERVICES:** This category includes all medical professionals, including dentists, social workers and psychologists. Rehab clinics, home health care, assisted living facilities and of course Health Departments are included. Workers who support these functions will also continue work.
- **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:** Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail, including farmers markets and farm stands, that sells food and beverage products, including liquor stores. Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing.
- **PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Workers who support the maintenance of electrical, gas, water and sewer supplies will continue their functions.
- **TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS:** Mass transit workers, repair technicians, car rental employees, public and private postal and shipping companies and air transport employees will continue their functions.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Employees of internet service providers, radio, media and television services will continue their functions. Personnel associated with construction and maintenance of fiber optic cables will continue their functions. Customer service and support staff, including managed and professional services as well as remote providers of support to transitioning employees to set up and maintain home offices.

- **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** Workers who support command centers, systems administrators, HVAC and electrical engineers, IT managers, software and hardware engineers are included. Workers who support critical IT infrastructure, the Cloud and security will continue their functions.

- **COMMUNITY BASED OPERATIONS:**
 - Local and state inspectors will continue to work. Security staff in general will be allowed to continue services. Elections personnel may continue work.
 - Educators and staff supporting emergency childcare programs, residential schools for disabled students (i.e. Perkins) public and private schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating distance learning, provision of school meals, or performing other essential student support functions.
 - Construction workers.
 - Commercial retail stores that supply essential sectors, including convenience stores, pet supply stores, auto supplies and repair, hardware and home improvement, and home appliance retailers.
 - Laundromats.
 - Houses of Worship.
 - ATM's and other needed support for banking/financial services.