

FAQ's

What Is the Safer At Home Order?

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued a [Safer At Home Order for the State of Florida](#) April 1, 2020. It goes into effect just after midnight (at 12:01 am) on the morning of Friday, April 3, 2020, and is set to expire on Thursday, April 30, 2020. The Order limits movement and personal interaction outside of the home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services, or to conduct essential activities.

The term “essential businesses” is defined by and encompasses a list detailed by two different sources:

1. U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#) (CISA Guidance).
2. Essential services also include the businesses and activities designated by Florida [Executive Order 20-89](#) and its attachment, which consists of the list propounded by [Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20](#), as amended in multiple orders.

Other essential services may be added under the Order and nothing in the Order prohibits individuals from working from home.

Thus, when determining whether your business qualifies as an “essential business”, you should consult the Department of Homeland Security’s Guidance and the Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20 and its amendments. The individual lists may differ to some degree but to be classified as an “Essential Business” in Volusia County, a business only needs to be defined in one of the two documents, not both.

What Does This Mean For Employers?

Employers with operations in Volusia County should review the [CISA guidance](#) and [Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20](#), and its amendments, to determine if they are deemed non-essential and must close beginning on April 3, 2020 at 12:01 am.

Employers should also be prepared to address concerns from older employees and employees with underlying significant health conditions regarding whether or not they must come in to work

If my Business is Not Categorized as an “Essential Business” Under the CISA Guidance or the Emergency Order 07-20 and my Business is Not Able to Maintain the 6-Foot Social Distancing Requirement for Employees and Customers, Do I Need to Close?

Yes, the Safer At Home Order goes into effect just after midnight (at 12:01 am) on the morning of Friday, April 3, 2020

Does my Business Need to Provide Letters or Passes for Employees to Show to Authorities to Get to Work?

No. At this time, no letters or Passes are required for employees to travel to work in Volusia County. However, for the convenience of businesses and employees, a template of an “Essential Business Employee Letter” can be downloaded *here*.

Is there a “Quick Reference List” of Essential Businesses?

For convenience, a summary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidance and Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20 and its amendments include the following as “Essential Businesses”:

HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS

- Research and laboratory services;
- Hospitals, doctors’ and dentists’ offices, clinics;
- Walk-in-care/Urgent care health facilities;
- Veterinary and animal health services;
- Elder care;
- Rehabilitation facilities, physical therapists, and therapists;
- Mental health professionals and psychiatrists;
- Medical wholesale and distribution;
- Home health care workers or aides;
- Nursing homes, or residential health care facilities or congregate care facilities;
- Medical supplies and equipment providers.

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION, AND MARINE SERVICES

- Utilities, including power generation, fuel supply and transmission;
- Public water and wastewater;
- Telecommunications and data centers;
- Airports/Airlines;
- Taxis;
- Other private transportation providers providing transportation services via automobile, truck, bus, or train.
- Transportation infrastructure, such as bus, rail, or for-hire vehicles and garages.
- Private and municipal marinas;
- Boat launches;
- Docking services;
- Fueling services;

- Marine supply and other marina services.

MANUFACTURING

- Food processing, including all foods and beverages;
- Chemicals;
- Medical equipment and instruments;
- Pharmaceuticals;
- Safety and sanitary products;
- Telecommunications;
- Agriculture/Farms;
- Paper products;
- Factories;
- Manufacturing facilities;
- Bottling plants;
- Other industrial uses.

RETAIL

- Grocery stores and supermarkets, including all food and beverage stores;
- Food banks;
- Pharmacies;
- Convenience stores;
- Farmer's markets, and farm and produce stands;
- Gas stations;
- Restaurants/bars (but only for take-out/delivery);
- Hardware and building material stores;
- Other establishments engaged in the retail of food products, pet supply, and such other household consumer products as cleaning and personal care products;
- Other stores that sell groceries and other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitations, and essential operations of residents;
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods, or services directly to residences;
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, takeout, or drive-thru services.

SERVICES

- Trash and waste recycling collection, processing and disposal;
- Mail and shipping services;
- Laundromats/dry cleaning;
- Building cleaning and maintenance;
- Child care services;
- Auto repair;
- Warehouse/distribution and fulfillment;
- Funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries;
- Storage for essential businesses;
- Sales of computer or telecommunications devices and the provision of home telecommunications;
- Legal and accounting services as necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities.

NEWS MEDIA

- Newspapers;
- Television;
- Radio;
- Other media services.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- Banks and other related financial institutions;
- Insurance;
- Payroll;

PROVIDERS OF BASIC NECESSITIES TO ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS

- Homeless shelters and congregate care facilities;
- Food banks;
- Human services providers whose functions include the direct care of patients;
- Businesses providing food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.

CONSTRUCTION

- Skilled trades such as electricians and plumbers;
- Other related construction firms and professionals for essential infrastructure or for emergency repair and safety purposes;
- Open construction sites, irrespective of the type of building;
- Architectural services;
- Engineering services;
- Land surveying services.

DEFENSE

- Defense and security-related operations supporting the U.S. Government or a contractor to the U.S. government.

SERVICES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY AND ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS OF RESIDENCES OR OTHER ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

- Law enforcement;
- Fire prevention and response;
- Emergency management and response;
- Building cleaners or janitors;
- Local governments.

PET CARE

- Pet supply stores;
- Veterinarians;
- Pet boarding facilities;
- Animal shelters or animal care or management.

AGRICULTURE

- Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing.

AUTOMOBILE AND VEHICLE-RELATED OPERATIONS

- Gas stations;
- Auto-supply stores;
- Auto-repair facilities;
- New and used automobile dealerships;

- However, for each of the above, social distancing as advised by the CDC must be practiced.

HARDWARE STORES AND TRADESMEN

- Hardware stores;
- Contractors;
- Appliance repair personnel;
- Exterminators;
- Fumigators;
- Landscaping businesses;
- Pool care services;
- Service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and other structures.

EDUCATION

- Private colleges, trade schools, and technical colleges;
 - However, the above are only deemed essential as needed to facilitate online or distance learning;
- University, college, or technical college residence halls may also remain open to the extent needed to accommodate students who cannot return to their homes.

LOGISTICS

- Warehouses;
- Trucking;
- Consolidators;

SENIOR CARE

- Home-based care for seniors or adults;
- Assisted living facilities;
- Nursing homes;
- Adult day care centers;
- Senior residential facilities.

CHILDCARE

- Home-based care for children;

- Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted to work as permitted, subject to group size and spacing restrictions.

OTHER OPERATIONS DEEMED ESSENTIAL

- Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- Businesses that supply office products needed for people to work from home;
- Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate, and which do not interact with the general public;
- Businesses operating at any airport, seaport, or other government facility, including parks and government offices;
- Office space and administrative support necessary to perform exempted essential activities;
- Businesses providing propane or natural gas;
- Mortuaries, funeral homes, and cemeteries;
- Firearm and ammunition supply stores;
- Businesses providing services to any local, state, or Federal government, including municipalities, pursuant to a contract with such government;
- Any business that is interacting with customers solely through electronic or telephonic means, and delivering products via mailing, shipping, or delivery services.

How Can I Learn More About How the Stay At Home Order Affects My Business?

Businesses in Volusia County can keep up to date on the latest information and announcements about business resources and assistance programs (City, State and Federal) by frequently checking VolusiaBusinessResources.com This website will be updated frequently.

For answers to business related questions or to access local, state and federal resources, contact the Volusia County Division of Economic Development staff at (386) 248-8048 or send an email to <mailto:doed@volusia.org>.