



Kim Reynolds  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Adam Gregg  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 7, 2020

Dear Law Enforcement Partners:

As you are aware, Iowans are facing an unprecedented public health disaster emergency as we seek to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our state.

I have taken numerous executive actions to protect the health of Iowans since first declaring a disaster emergency on March 9, 2020. I have prohibited all social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings of more than 10 people. I have closed dine-in restaurants and bars, social clubs, theaters, malls, and casinos, playgrounds and other places where congregating people may increase the spread of the virus. And I have closed many other nonessential retail establishments, salons, barbershops, and other places where public interaction unnecessarily increases the risk of transmission.

I know that most Iowans want to do the right thing to help protect our community and the most vulnerable among us. But we need your assistance in helping to educate Iowans about these orders, encourage compliance, and if necessary, enforce these orders. In my most recent proclamation ordering additional closures and mitigation efforts, I renewed my call for all peace officers of the state to assist in the enforcement of these orders under sections 29C.18 and 135.35 of the Iowa Code. I have every confidence law enforcement will use good judgment in the exercise of their duties and will consider legal intervention only if truly necessary.

If you have any questions about these orders, do not hesitate to contact Department of Public Safety Commissioner Stephan Bayens at (515) 725-6180.

On behalf of all Iowans, thank you for all that you are doing to protect and serve your communities. You stand on the front lines of this effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa

## **COVID-19 BUSINESS CLOSURE AND MASS GATHERING GUIDANCE**

Governor Kim Reynolds has issued several Proclamations of Disaster Emergency regarding the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) that close business and retail establishments and prohibit certain social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings. These closures and gathering restrictions substantially reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This document is intended to provide guidance in determining the scope of the Governor's Proclamations.

Even if a business has not been closed or a gathering prohibited, Governor Reynolds has consistently instructed individuals to implement social distancing to slow the spread of the virus and avoid overburdening our healthcare system. Individuals should use discretion in determining whether the purpose of an outing is essential, and whether a safer alternative is available.

### **1. What businesses must close pursuant to the Governor's Proclamations?**

- Restaurants and bars;
- Fitness centers, health clubs, health spas, gyms, and aquatic centers;
- Swimming pools and spas, wading pools, water slides, wave pools, spray pads, and bath houses;
- Salons, including all establishments providing the services of cosmetology, electrology, esthetics, nail technology, manicuring, and pedicuring;
- Medical spas;
- Barbershops;
- Tattoo establishments;
- Tanning facilities;
- Massage therapy establishments;
- Theaters at which live performances or motion pictures are shown;
- Casinos and other facilities conducting pari-mutuel wagering or gaming operations;
- Bookstores;
- Clothing stores;
- Shoe stores;
- Jewelry stores;
- Luggage stores;
- Cosmetic, beauty, or perfume stores;
- Florists;
- Furniture and home furnishing stores;
- Senior citizen centers and adult daycare facilities;
- Tobacco, cigarette, cigar, or vaping stores;
- Enclosed malls, including interior common areas and any retail establishment that only accessible to the public from the interior common areas;
- Social and fraternal clubs, including but not limited to American Legion or VFW posts, elk clubs, country clubs, and golf course clubhouses;
- Bingo halls, bowling alleys, pool halls, arcades, and amusement parks;
- Museums, aquariums, and zoos;
- Race tracks and speedways;
- Indoor or outdoor roller or ice skating rinks and skate parks;
- Outdoor or indoor playgrounds or children's play centers, not including playgrounds in private residences or childcare facilities;
- Public and private campgrounds; and
- Door-to-door sales.

## **2. What mass gatherings are prohibited pursuant to the Governor's Proclamations?**

- Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.
- Auctions with more than 10 people present in person, except for livestock auctions that only include food animals, which may operate so long as there are no more than 25 people present in person.

## **3. May closed retail businesses continue to operate through online sales, orders for pickup or delivery, or curbside service?**

Yes. Subject to any other applicable regulations to their industry, retail establishments may continue to serve customers through phone or online sales, delivery, or curbside pickup.

## **4. How does a person determine whether a business falls into one of the listed closed categories?**

A business listed above must close if its primary purpose is to provide a service or sell the goods listed in the Proclamation. If a business sells goods outside the scope of the Proclamation, but only nominally or incidentally, the business must close. For example, the mere fact that a clothing store offers snack foods at the checkout counter does not excuse its need to close, because the store's primary purpose is the sale of clothing. If the business sells a variety of goods, some listed in the Proclamation and others not listed, see Question 6.

## **5. What if a business is not listed in the Proclamation?**

All businesses not listed in the Governor's current or previous proclamations may remain open. The Governor determined that the closure of the specified businesses was only necessary at this time. Many businesses, however, are electing to close on their own and it may be wise to contact a business in advance to determine if it is open.

## **6. What if a business was not ordered to close, but sells some goods listed in the Proclamation such as books or shoes?**

The Governor's Proclamation does not affect retail establishments, such as discount stores, grocery stores, or pharmacies that sell goods listed in the Proclamation in addition to other essential food, medical supplies, or household goods. For example, a grocery store that has a floral department may continue to operate without restriction, but a free standing florist shop must close during the time the Proclamation is in effect. Operating one of the enumerated businesses and incidentally selling food or health care supplies does not change the primary purpose of that business. For example, a jewelry store that also sells chocolates must close, as well as a shoe store that sells non-prescription orthotics.

**7. May campgrounds remain open for long-term or permanent tenants who reside at the campground or in order to serve essential employees who wish to self-isolate from family members?**

Yes. Campgrounds shall be closed to temporary recreational use. The use of the terms “temporary” and “recreational” were intentional as it was not designed to prevent people who reside or serve as campground hosts for the entire summer from having to leave the functional equivalent of their home or to prevent medical professionals or first responders from using campgrounds to self-isolate so as to protect their families. But individuals must reside at the campground; campgrounds must remain closed to individuals who stay at the campground only for a weekend or other short-term stays for recreational purposes, even if they have a season-long lease.

**8. What is the penalty for violating any of these closure or mass gathering orders?**

Any person who knowingly violates these public health orders or a lawful order of an officer is guilty of a simple misdemeanor under section 135.38 of the Iowa Code.

**9. What dedicated resources are law enforcement agencies expected to utilize in enforcing the Governor’s Emergency Proclamations?**

Each agency will need to evaluate the scope and nature of any concerns that may arise in their jurisdiction. But it is anticipated that any complaints or observations could likely be addressed during the course of existing patrol duties.