

# **SHELTER IN PLACE: Stay Home Stay Safe City of Dallas FAQs<sup>1</sup>**

**I. ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES.** Individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following:

- To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies need to work from home).
- To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
- To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, or running).
- To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
- To care for a family member or pet in another household.
- To move to another residence either in or outside Dallas County.

## **II. ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES.**

**ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS.** This exemption is meant to be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare.

- Hospitals, clinics, dentists, chiropractors, physical therapy, optometry offices, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services.
- Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children.
- Veterinary care is included under this exception, but not elective veterinary medical, surgical, and dental procedures.
- There is no requirement that essential healthcare operations be provided via telemedicine.
- Support therapy groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, are mental health and/or substance abuse services. Support therapy groups are encouraged to have virtual meetings. If in-person meetings are conducted, the DCHHS Social Distancing Recommendations should be followed.

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<sup>1</sup> These FAQs are the City of Dallas Interpretation of the County's Order that were incorporated into the Mayor's Second Amended Emergency Regulations, which became effective at 8:57 a.m. on March 24, 2020, throughout the City of Dallas.

## **ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS.**

- All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- Vehicle towing from public rights-of-way.

## **ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

- Public works construction, residential, commercial, and school construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions except non-depository lenders (such as payday lenders), payroll, accounting, and insurance companies, defense and national security-related operations, and essential manufacturing operations.
- Airlines and airports are essential infrastructure.
- Sign installation at Essential Businesses only.
- Landscaping companies are essential to the construction of residential, commercial, and school properties.
- Real estate appraisers and inspectors are essential to the construction of residential and commercial properties.
- Tile manufacturing is a necessary operation for residential, commercial, and school construction.
- Wholesale warehouse companies that distributes and sells to residential home builders, commercial general contractors, home flippers, and other non-retail customers.
- Ride share companies (i.e. Uber, Lyft) and common carriers (i.e. Greyhound, Vonlane) are essential critical transportation infrastructure.

## **ESSENTIAL RETAIL.**

- Grocery stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers' markets that sell food products and household staples.
- Food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock.
- Pet food and supplies. Pet grooming when necessary to provide for the health of the animal. Pet care and boarding that offer services to enable exempted employees to work as permitted.
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, hygiene products, goods or services directly to residences or Essential Businesses.
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, drive-through services, or carry out. For carry out service, restaurant staff shall take food orders outside to waiting customers. Because dining rooms are closed, customers may not wait inside for carry out orders.

- Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. In addition, obtaining necessary supplies for family or household members is an essential activity.
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers.
- Gas stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities.
- Firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security.
- Auto repair is included as a facility related to gas stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores. Auto dealers are included as a related facility to auto repair. Car washes are essential to the extent they provide services that are necessary to the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residents and essential businesses. Vehicle towing in conjunction with auto repair is an Essential Business.
- The following retail stores that sell *food products and/or household staples* are included as essential:
  - Department stores.
  - Neighborhood markets.
  - Retail stores located within a hotel.
- Manufacturing facilities that produce personal hygiene products are Essential Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.
- Plant nurseries are essential businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with the support of supplies needed to operate.
- Hardware stores.
- To the greatest extent possible, essential retail establishments shall comply with the following guidelines:
  - Designate shopping times for at-risk populations (seniors, pregnant people, and people with underlying health conditions).
  - Limit the number of people in a store at one time so that social distancing is possible.
  - Implement an organized line system where people are spaced at least six feet apart.
  - Implement purchase limits on high-demand items (toilet paper, soap, hand sanitizer).
  - Offer pick-up or delivery of grocery items.

**PROVIDERS OF BASIC NECESSITIES TO ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS.**

- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.
- Food pantries.
- Transportation for the economically disadvantaged (i.e. transportation to a domestic violence shelter).

**ESSENTIAL SERVICES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS OF RESIDENCES OR OTHER ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES.**

- Trash and recycling collection, landscaping services, processing and disposal, mail, shipping, and delivery services, building maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, moving services for residential and Essential Businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries.
- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators.
- Cleaning services necessary to maintain essential operations of residences or other Essential Businesses.
- Residential and commercial renovations and remodels that are necessary or critical to maintain essential operations of residences other Essential Businesses.
- Apartment leasing offices are essential to manage the operations of residences.
- Pool service companies are essential to the operation of residences.
- Management companies for public improvement districts are essential for the operation of residences and other Essential Businesses.
- The towing of illegally parked vehicle from residences and Essential Business is necessary to obtain essential operations.
- Computer and cell phone repair businesses supply other Essential Businesses with the support of supplies needed to operate.
- Attorneys, together with their clients, shall determine what legal services are necessary to comply with legally mandated activities.
- Accounting professionals, together with their clients, shall determine what accounting services are necessary to comply with legally mandated activities.

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATION.**

- Public and private educational institutions, only for the purposes of facilitating *distance learning* or performing essential functions.

**NEWS MEDIA.**

- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.

**CHILDCARE SERVICES.**

- Childcare facilities providing services or community service providers offering childcare services that enable exempted employees to work as permitted.
- All childcare services must operate under the following conditions:
  - Childcare is limited to 12 or fewer children in the same group each day.
  - Children shall not change from one group to another within a single day or from day-to-day.
  - If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group must be in a separate room. Groups are not permitted to mix with each other.
  - Childcare providers must remain solely with one group of children.

**III. OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS.**

All employees, including employees of Essential Businesses, are instructed to remain home if sick.

In addition, if someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function, except for workers included in Essential Healthcare Operations who may continue to work in accordance with CDC guidance.

To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Activities and work at Essential Businesses must be performed in compliance with the DCHHS Social Distancing Recommendations, including maintaining six feet social distancing for both employees and the general public.

The Order does not require that Essential Businesses keep their employees below a specified maximum number.

Non-essential businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e. working from home). Individuals may return to a non-essential business to pick up mail.

Hotels are a “place of residence” under the Order and are considered an Essential Business. The Order applies only to individuals currently living within Dallas County; any individual “living” in a hotel must shelter in place at the hotel and abide with the order for the duration of the order. As to those individuals not currently living in Dallas County i.e., out of town visitors, these individuals are not subject to the order.

Because the order specifically applies to all individuals currently living within Dallas County, an individual must shelter in place unless an exemption applies. This includes all individuals who live within Dallas County but work in another county.

Any manufacturer who retools so that a substantial part of their business is for the purpose of manufacturing and producing ventilators, masks, personal protective equipment, or any supply necessary for Essential Healthcare Operations may apply for an “essential business” exemption under this Order. Submit requests for an exemption to [BusinessCOVID19@dallascounty.org](mailto:BusinessCOVID19@dallascounty.org).

All delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies are suspended in Dallas County for the next 60 days.

All sales of bath or toilet tissue occurring in Dallas County are limited to the greater of: (a) 12 rolls per purchase; or (b) one package per purchase.

Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are prohibited from allowing non-essential visitors to access their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.

Eviction hearings and writs of possession are suspended for at least the next 60 days to prevent renters from being displaced.

The order does not require individuals to carry documentation as proof that they are employed by an essential business.

The order does not require Essential Businesses to take the temperature of employees that report to work.

Social gatherings of any number of people are not permitted under the order unless it is to care for a family member or pet in another household.

For purposes of determining a person's right to possession of and access to a child under a court-ordered possession schedule, the existing trial court order shall control in all instances. Possession of and access to a child shall not be affected by any shelter-in place order or other order restricting movement issued by a governmental entity that arises from the COVID-19 pandemic (pursuant to Supreme Court of Texas order dated March 24, 2020).

#### **IV. NONESSENTIAL BUSINESSES.**

- Print shops.
- Estate sales/garage sales.
- Commercial amusement.
- Country clubs.
- Florists.
- Weight loss centers.
- Real estate agents.
- Gyms, personal training, gymnastics studios, and similar facilities.
- Door-to-door sales.
- Vape shops and CBD oil shops.

For further inquiries or to report possible violations in the City of Dallas please call **3-1-1**.

For other city information related to the COVID-19: <https://dallascityhall.com/Pages/Corona-Virus.aspx>

For more information from the County, please visit: <https://www.dallascounty.org/government/comcrt/jenkins/covid-19.php>

For further inquiries or to report possible violations of the County Shelter in Place Order, please call **2-1-1**.

Physicians may call the DCHHS 24/7 answering service at **1-877-605-2660** for consultation.