



OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

**INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE**

**Number:** COVID19-06  
**Date:** March 24, 2020  
**Re:** Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland, Number 20-03-23-01, dated March 23, 2020, Amending and Restating the Order of March 19, 2020, Prohibiting Large Gatherings and Events and Closing Senior Centers, and Additionally Closing All Non-Essential Businesses and Other Establishments

---

At this time, the Office of Legal Counsel (“OLC”) recommends that the Administration interpret the above-referenced Order as follows:

1. **Staff Access to Non-Essential Businesses.** The Order requires businesses, organizations, and facilities to close to the general public. This does not prohibit staff from being on-site as reasonably necessary for the purposes listed below, if this can be accomplished in a manner consistent with all applicable guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”), and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (“OSHA”) regarding social-distancing and environmental cleaning and disinfection:
  - a. Facilitating remote working (“telework”) by other staff.
  - b. Maintaining essential property.
  - c. Performing essential administrative functions, including without limitation, picking up mail and processing payroll.
  - d. Preventing loss of, or damage to property, including without limitation, preventing spoilage of perishable inventory.
  - e. Caring for live animals.
  - f. Continuing to sell products on a delivery or “curbside” pick-up basis.
2. **When “Non-Essential” Status is Unclear.** If a business, organization, or facility is unsure about whether or not it is considered “non-essential” under the Order, it should:
  - a. *First*, carefully review the Order, all available guidance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (see <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>), and all Interpretive Guidance issued by OLC to confirm that the business, organization, or facility is not addressed in some way.
  - b. *Second*, if “non-essential” status is still unclear, make a good faith determination about whether it is “non-essential”, based on:
    - i. the Order’s purpose, which is to “reduce the threat to human health caused by the transmission of the novel coronavirus in Maryland, and to protect and save lives”; and
    - ii. how similar businesses, organizations, and facilities are treated under the Order.
  - c. *Third*, if the business, organization, or facility decides to remain open pending more detailed legal advice, strictly adhere to all applicable guidance from the CDC, MDH, and OSHA regarding social-distancing and environmental cleaning and disinfection.
3. **Additional Businesses, Organizations, and Facilities That May Remain Open.** In addition to the businesses, organizations, and facilities that were identified in Interpretive Guidance documents COVID19-04 and COVID19-05, the following is a non-exhaustive list of additional businesses,

*This Interpretive Guidance maybe revised or rescinded at any time. Citizens are urged to consult with their own legal counsel for advice about the application of the Order and this Interpretive Guidance to their particular facts and circumstances.*

organizations, and facilities that are included in the federal critical infrastructure sectors. The Order does not require these businesses, organizations, and facilities to close.

- a. Greenhouses and nurseries.
- b. Companies that provide waste management services, including without limitation, waste pickup and hauling, and dumpster rental.
- c. Residential cleaning services.



OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

**INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE**

**Number:** COVID19-04  
**Date:** March 23, 2020  
**Re:** Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland, Number 20-03-23-01, dated March 23, 2020, Amending and Restating the Order of March 19, 2020, Prohibiting Large Gatherings and Events and Closing Senior Centers, and Additionally Closing All Non-Essential Businesses and Other Establishments

---

At this time, the Office of Legal Counsel recommends that the Administration interpret the above-referenced Order as follows:

1. **Not a Shelter-in-Place Order.** The Order is not a shelter-in-place order. However, all Marylanders are urged to remain home, and employers are urged to promote work-from-home arrangements to the greatest extent possible.
2. **Businesses, Organizations, and Facilities That May Remain Open.** The following is a non-exhaustive list of businesses, organizations, and facilities that are included in the federal critical infrastructure sectors. The Order does not require these businesses, organizations, and facilities to close.
  - a. **The Chemical Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
    - i. Pharmaceutical manufacturers.
    - ii. Chemical manufacturers.
    - iii. Distributors of chemicals and pharmaceuticals.
  - b. **The Commercial Facilities Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
    - i. Lodging.
    - ii. Building and property maintenance companies, including without limitation plumbers, electricians, HVAC service companies, roofers, environmental services companies, exterminators, arborists, and landscapers.
    - iii. Janitorial firms.
    - iv. Companies that sell supplies and materials for maintenance of commercial and residential buildings, including “big box” home improvement supply stores, plumbing distributors, electrical distributors, and HVAC distributors.
    - v. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry services.
    - vi. Commercial and residential construction companies.
    - vii. Self-storage facilities.

**Please note:** Casinos, racetracks, simulcast betting facilities, enclosed malls, certain recreational establishments, and certain retail businesses are subject to specific provisions of this and other Orders, and are required to close. Please read the Order carefully.
  - c. **The Communications Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
    - i. Broadcasting companies and stations.
    - ii. Cable TV companies.

*This Interpretive Guidance maybe revised or rescinded at any time. Citizens are urged to consult with their own legal counsel for advice about the application of the Order and this Interpretive Guidance to their particular facts and circumstances.*

- iii. Telephone (cellular and landline) companies.
  - iv. Internet service providers.
- d. **The Critical Manufacturing Sector** includes, but is not limited to, manufacturing of:
  - i. Steel, iron, and aluminum products.
  - ii. Engines, motors, turbines, generators, and power transmission equipment.
  - iii. Earth-moving, mining, agricultural, and construction equipment.
  - iv. Parts for water, electric, and telecommunications utility infrastructure.
  - v. Land, air, and water vehicles, and related parts.
  - vi. Medical equipment.
  - vii. Personal protective equipment.
  - viii. Cleaning and sanitation equipment and supplies.
- e. **The Defense Industrial Base Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Companies that research, develop, manufacture, or integrate weapons, defense, or intelligence systems or assets.
  - ii. Private contractors that support defense and intelligence agencies.
- f. **The Emergency Services Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Law enforcement.
  - ii. Emergency medical services.
  - iii. Emergency management.
  - iv. Fire and rescue services.
  - v. Private ambulance companies.
- g. **The Energy Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Companies engaged in electricity production (excluding hydroelectric and nuclear, which are included in other sectors).
  - ii. Companies engaged in the production, refining, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale of oil, gas, and propane products, including gas stations and truck stops.
  - iii. Companies that provide utility maintenance services.
- h. **The Financial Services Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Banks and credit unions.
  - ii. Non-bank lenders.
  - iii. Payroll processing companies.
  - iv. Payment processing companies.
  - v. Armored car companies.
  - vi. Insurance companies.
  - vii. Securities and investment companies.
  - viii. Accounting and bookkeeping firms.
- i. **The Food and Agriculture Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Grocery stores.
  - ii. Farmer's markets.
  - iii. Convenience stores.

- iv. Alcoholic beverage stores and distributors, distilleries, and wineries.
- v. Institutional food service and supply companies.
- vi. Farms.
- vii. Food manufacturing and processing.
- viii. Pet supply stores.
- ix. Veterinary hospitals, clinics, and kennels.
- x. Companies that manufacture, maintain, and sell agricultural equipment.
- xi. Companies that manufacture, or support the manufacturing of paper products.

**Please note:** Restaurants and bars are subject to specific provisions of the Order, and are required to close (except for carry-out, delivery, and drive-through sales). Please read the Order carefully.

- j. **The Government Facilities Sector** also encompasses private persons and entities that support the judicial system including, but not limited to:

- i. Lawyers and law firms.
- ii. Court reporters.
- iii. Bail bondsmen.

- k. **The Healthcare and Public Health Sector** includes, but is not limited to:

- i. Hospitals.
- ii. Healthcare systems and clinics.
- iii. Offices of health care providers, including physicians, dentists, and pharmacists.
- iv. Physical, occupation, and speech therapists.
- v. Behavioral health facilities and professionals, including psychologists, mental health counselors, and substance abuse counselors
- vi. Rehabilitation facilities.
- vii. Diagnostic facilities, including radiology, imaging, and laboratory facilities.
- viii. Health plans, payors, and billing companies.
- ix. Funeral homes and crematoriums.
- x. Senior living facilities, including independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing.
- xi. Manufacturers and distributors of medical equipment and supplies.
- xii. Medical cannabis growers, processors, and dispensaries.
- xiii. Home health care companies.
- xiv. Pharmacies.

- l. **The Information Technology Sector** includes, but is not limited to:

- i. Companies that design, develop, distribute, host, sell, and support information technology software and hardware.
- ii. Companies that provide network routing, access, and configuration services.

- m. **The Transportation Systems Sector** includes, but is not limited to:

- i. Airlines and operators of commercial aircraft (manned and unmanned).
- ii. Airports, air strips, heliports, and seaplane bases.
- iii. Railroads.
- iv. Motor carriers.
- v. Carriers of marine freight, including ocean carriers and inland carriers.

- vi. Marine, rail, truck, and intermodal terminals, and operators thereof.
  - vii. Stevedores, longshoremen, baggage handlers, and others who handle cargo at transportation hubs.
  - viii. Courier, package delivery, mail service, and mail management companies.
  - ix. Warehousing and distribution companies.
  - x. Pipeline owners, operators and maintenance companies.
  - xi. Lessors of transportation assets, including railcars and truck trailers.
  - xii. Companies that supply parts, or provide maintenance and repair services for transportation assets and infrastructure, including aircraft, marine vessels, locomotives, rail cars, trucks, buses, cars, heavy equipment, roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, air strips, marine terminals, railroads.
  - xiii. Automotive supply stores and repair shops.
- n. **The Water and Wastewater Systems Sector** includes, but is not limited to:
- i. Municipal, community, and other drinking water and wastewater systems and facilities.
  - ii. Well drillers.
  - iii. Companies that provide maintenance and inspection services for water and wastewater assets, including treatment works, residential water treatment systems, piping, pumps, tanks, drains, conveyances, and monitoring systems.
  - iv. Water testing companies.
- o. **Supporting Firms.** The federal critical infrastructure sectors include firms providing the following to any other business, organization, or facility included in the federal critical infrastructure sectors:
- i. Staffing and/or payroll services.
  - ii. Essential raw materials, products, or services.
3. **Door-to-Door Solicitation.** Door-to-door solicitation (even by businesses that are permitted to remain open) is likely to violate social-distancing guidelines and should be discontinued.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The list in #2 above is non-exhaustive. The fact that a particular business, organization, or facility is not included in the list does not mean it is excluded from the federal critical infrastructure sectors. Please consult <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19> for additional guidance about what is and is not included in the federal critical infrastructure sectors.**



OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

**INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE**

**Number:** COVID19-05  
**Date:** March 23, 2020  
**Re:** Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland, Number 20-03-23-01, dated March 23, 2020, Amending and Restating the Order of March 19, 2020, Prohibiting Large Gatherings and Events and Closing Senior Centers, and Additionally Closing All Non-Essential Businesses and Other Establishments

---

At this time, the Office of Legal Counsel recommends that the Administration interpret the above-referenced Order as follows:

1. **Additional Businesses, Organizations, and Facilities That May Remain Open.** In addition to the businesses, organizations, and facilities that were identified in Interpretive Guidance COVID19-04, the following is a non-exhaustive list of additional businesses, organizations, and facilities that are included in the federal critical infrastructure sectors. The Order does not require these businesses, organizations, and facilities to close.
  - a. Businesses and institutions involved in the research and development, manufacture, distribution, warehousing, and supplying of (i) pharmaceuticals; (ii) biotechnology therapies; and (iii) medical devices, diagnostics, equipment, and services.
  - b. Auto and truck dealerships.
  - c. Bicycle shops.
  - d. Private security firms.
  - e. Day cares (subject to any other Orders, directives, or guidelines that have been, or may be issued by the State Superintendent of Schools).
  - f. Companies providing moving and storage of household items.
  - g. Printers and sign shops.
  - h. Companies and organizations providing support for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
  - i. Engineering, surveying, architectural, and interior design firms.
  - j. Title companies.
  - k. Motorcycle parts stores and repair shops.
  - l. Companies that provide portable tents, portable flooring, portable lighting, portable toilets, portable handwashing stations, portable HVAC and other related equipment.
  - m. Companies that rent tools and/or equipment.
2. **Higher Education Institutions.** The Order does not require colleges and universities that provide on-campus housing to displace students remaining in dormitories who have no other reasonably accessible place of residence, e.g., international students who are unable to return home due to travel restrictions, or students who are otherwise homeless.
3. **Retail Establishments.** Retail establishments that remain open are strongly encouraged to modify their operations to conduct as much business as possible remotely, and to limit in-store interactions where practicable (e.g., by making products available for delivery or curbside pick-up to limit in-store browsing).

*This Interpretive Guidance maybe revised or rescinded at any time. Citizens are urged to consult with their own legal counsel for advice about the application of the Order and this Interpretive Guidance to their particular facts and circumstances.*