



**STAY AT HOME TO FLATTEN THE CURVE: Orange County Issues 'Stay At Home,' Order  
Effective MARCH 26, 2020**

Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings has ordered all non-essential retail and commercial businesses to close and all residents to stay home from non-essential travel. This order will take effect at 11 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 and will continue for two weeks until April 9 at 11 p.m. The order means that the entirety of Orange County is ordered to stay at home as much as possible, with exceptions for businesses and travel deemed "essential." For the complete [Executive Order](#), visit this [webpage](#).

In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, all Orange County residents are ordered to limit travel to essential trips ONLY and to STAY AT HOME as much as possible. Orange County urges all residents to continue monitoring their personal health and the health of their families, practice social distancing and self-quarantine for 14 days.

The Order is critical to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

"It's our collective responsibility to take the necessary steps to slow the spread of COVID-19," said Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings. "We're working to save lives, and every Orange County resident needs to stay home and adhere to this order. Other mayors in the County are also deeply concerned about the welfare of all residents, and this decision was not made lightly."

As of March 26, 2020, the Emergency Executive Order was modified/amended to address some additional business concerns. These concerns are addressed in the updated FAQs.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORDER:**

**ABOUT THE ORDER:**

**When does the order go into effect and when will it expire?**

The Order takes effect on Thursday, March 26 at 11 p.m. and ends on Thursday, April 9 at 11 p.m. Mayor Demings could extend the order if he believes it is necessary for the safety of residents.

**To whom does this order apply?**

The order applies to ALL INDIVIDUALS within Orange County. Unless you work for an essential business or are doing an essential activity, you MUST STAY HOME. The order is MANDATORY. Orange County residents MUST stay home and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## ESSENTIAL VS. NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES:

### What are considered “essential” businesses or activities?

Individuals can travel to and from grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, police stations, fire stations, hospitals, doctor’s offices and healthcare facilities. However, once these locations have been visited, residents NEED TO GO HOME. While inside these businesses, continue practicing social distancing. Try to stand 6 feet back from other customers in checkout lines, and continue good handwashing practices and using hand sanitizer before and after your trip.

The order details the difference between what is considered non-essential businesses and essential businesses. The outline for the differentiation can be found by accessing the [Executive Order](#).

The following are examples of deemed essential businesses that may continue to operate?

- Auto supply stores, repair shops as well as auto and motorcycle dealerships
- Businesses that provide shipping, logistics, etc.
- Construction industry, licensed contractors, general contractors and workers, etc.
- Financial institutions
- Funeral/cemetery providers
- Government workers
- Groceries and pharmacies
- Hardware and home improvement stores
- Healthcare and medicine providers, including medical marijuana dispensaries
- Hotels and motels
- Marine dealers, and marina repair and supply businesses
- Media
- Non-profits or businesses that provide social services and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or needy individuals
- Real estate professionals, leasing offices, insurance contractors and property appraiser services. In addition, businesses that provide support necessary to perform essential real estate services.
- Veterinarians, animal care providers (and animal care boarders) and pet supply stores

Garbage pickup and public transit are also considered essential and will continue normal operations.

### What if my business is deemed “non-essential,” yet I and/or my employees have to conduct payroll and/or pay our vendors?

Non-essential businesses can continue to perform minimum basic operations, like processing payroll.

**Will restaurants/coffee shops/other food service facilities still be able to deliver or provide carryout service?**

Yes, restaurants and places such as bakeries and coffee shops can continue to provide takeout and delivery services. You cannot dine in at a restaurant, per the Governor's Executive Order 20-71. Continue practicing social distancing if you visit these establishments for their carryout services.

**What about firearm stores or stores selling of liquor?**

The Order does not regulate the sale or purchase of firearms or ammunition and it does not prohibit retail or wholesale stores from selling liquor.

**Will laundromats be open?**

Yes. Laundromats are considered essential business and will remain open.

**Will salons and beauty shops be open?**

No. These businesses will be closed during the order.

**Will daycares continue to operate?**

Yes, the Florida Department of Children and Families is the regulatory agency for childcare facilities. DCF has provided all licensed childcare facilities CDC guidelines as well as specific K-12 guidelines. The agency is also surveying to assess all closure tracking.

**ENFORCEMENT:**

**How will the order be enforced?**

The Orange County Sheriff's Office will enforce the order. The Sheriff's Office does not intend to use the order as a mechanism for making arrests. The purpose of the order is to get residents in the right frame of mind to act responsibly for their health and the health of their families by staying in their homes whenever possible. The Orange County Sheriff's Office will respond to reported violations of the order. Violations can be reported to the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at 407-836-HELP (4357). In addition, the Orange County Sheriff's Office will continue to temporarily suspend all eviction activities until further notice.

**Do I need documentation with me when I travel on the road so I will not be fined or arrested?**

The Sheriff's Office does not intend to use the order as a mechanism for making arrests. The purpose of the order is to get residents in the right frame of mind to act responsibly for their health and the health of their families by staying in their homes whenever possible. Make sure to have your driver's license and/or work ID (if available) when on the road and know the parameters of the executive order.

**RESIDENT-RELATED QUESTIONS:**

**Am I able to visit my friends and family?**

You should not visit family or friends unless there is an urgent need (e.g., providing food, caretaking, medical reasons, etc.). Otherwise, STAY AT HOME. Continue to check on your loved ones electronically – by phone, text, FaceTime, email, etc.

**What if I need to move?**

Moving companies are deemed essential as they provide transportation services via automobile or truck and therefore may remain open. The Executive Order does not prevent residents needing to move.

**What about doctor's appointments?**

Yes. You are permitted to travel to and from your healthcare provider.

**Will I be able to visit COVID-19 Testing Centers?**

Yes, but be aware of the qualifications for considerations for testing. For information on testing center criteria and information, visit [www.ocfl.net/covid-19](http://www.ocfl.net/covid-19).

**Will hospitals still be open?**

Yes. Hospitals are considered essential business, and residents are permitted to travel to and from local health facilities. However, you SHOULD NOT go to an ER for a COVID-19 test. An ER should only be used for medical emergencies. An influx of unnecessary patients to an ER will overwhelm our hospital systems and put healthcare workers and other patients at risk.

**What about educational institutions?**

The Order does not affect or limit the operations of any educational institution, whether public or private, except that such entity shall endeavor to abide by the prohibitions or restrictions of the County, City, State or Federal Emergency Orders, as applicable.

**Will grocery stores and pharmacies still be open?**

Yes. Groceries and pharmacies are considered essential business.

**Will I still be able to receive mail and online orders?**

Yes. You will still be able receive USPS mail, packages, get groceries delivered and get meals delivered.

**Will public transit, such as LYNX and SunRail, be available?**

Public transportation will continue to operate but should only be used for essential travel.

**Will garbage services still be provided?**

Yes. Garbage pickup is essential business and will continue normal operations.

## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:**

### **Will Orange County parks be open?**

Yes. The open-space areas in Orange County parks are open, along with our trails. We closed all amenities, such as fitness centers, the swimming portion of Kelly Park, classes, other organized activities at parks, etc. For more information on operating hours, visit [www.ocfl.net/covid-19](http://www.ocfl.net/covid-19).

### **Am I able to exercise outside?**

Yes. You can run, walk and ride your bike outside. Outdoor exercise is acceptable. However, gyms and fitness centers will remain closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. While exercising outside, you still should practice social distancing by running or walking at least 6 feet away from other people.

### **What physical activities are cleared for exercising?**

Numerous activities such as walking, cycling, running, boating, swimming, fishing, playing tennis and golf, etc. However, please follow the CDC guidelines in regards to social distancing and number of people.

### **Are golf courses able to stay open?**

Yes, for the benefit of physical activity and exercise.

### **May I take my pets to the vet or my dog for a walk?**

Yes. You can seek medical care for your pets should they require it. And you can walk your dog outside. Practice social distancing while you are outside, and try and stay 6 feet away from other neighbors and their pets.

### **Are my kids able to play at parks?**

Families will be able to go outside and take a walk, run or bike ride, but they should continue to practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from other people. Playgrounds are closed to discourage people from congregating in large groups.

## **TRAVEL:**

### **Will the Orlando International Airport still be open?**

Yes. The Orlando International Airport will continue to be open, and essential travel is permitted.

### **Is it permitted to drive to the airport?**

Yes. This is considered essential business, but only for essential travel.

**If I am an Orange County resident who works in another County that does not have the Executive Order for Stay at Home in place am I cleared to travel for work?**

Yes.

**If am a taxi, Uber or Lyft driver can I still provide my services?**

Yes. Taxis and other private transportation providers that provide transportation via automobile may remain open.

#### **COURTS/LITIGATION:**

**What if I have to go to court?**

Reporting to or conducting business at court facilities are permissible.

**If I have custody issues with my children/family will this Executive Order affect this?**

Picking up and dropping off children as part of a dual-custody arrangement is a necessary activity under the Order, which allows for travel to provide shelter and care or assistance to minors, dependents and family members.

#### **NON-PROFITS & RESOURCES:**

**What about blood donations?**

Blood donors provide an essential service to the community and are needed on a regular basis to ensure a ready blood supply for hospitals and their patients at all times. Blood donors should schedule an appointment to donate at [www.oneblood.org](http://www.oneblood.org).

**Are other non-profits available if I need help during this time?**

Heart of Florida United Way (@HFUW) has its 2-1-1 Help Line open for basic needs support. Numerous non-profits are still providing needed and critical services for our community, including Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida (@FeedHopeNow) and Harbor House of Central Florida (@HarborHouseFL). Check the nonprofits' webpages and social media channels for the latest information and how to contact accordingly.

**I am feeling anxious and scared about the order. Who can I talk to?**

Aspire Health Partners is offering a dedicated telephone line to assist residents with mental health concerns related to COVID-19. Residents can call the helpline, 407-875-3700, to be connected with a caring mental health professional.

In times of stress, anxiety can often overwhelm some of us, and this is understandable and normal. Residents are asked to stay calm, informed and measured as Orange County Government implements a proactive and planned response. Take care of yourself and your family – both physically and mentally.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

### **What about the homeless?**

Orange County Government is working with its partners to expand its services and be flexible with funding to address the homeless population. For example, one of our partners is reaching out to homeless camps asking and providing information to individuals there. Partners are working closely with camps and providing information to keep them safe.

### **Will churches and places of worship be open?**

Yes, the order does not limit religious services. However, religious leaders are encouraged to fully comply with all measures advised by the CDC, including limiting gatherings to not more than ten (10) people and practicing social distancing of at least six (6) feet between persons. Religious leaders are also encouraging to use online streaming services, if available. In addition, employees/volunteers at religious institutions are exempt. Also, any religious institutions and/or nonprofits offering meals and/or delivery of meals to people who may not be able to prepare food for themselves or family are exempt.