

# Frequently Asked Questions About the Governor’s Executive order 20-91

**Governor DeSantis issued a Safer At Home order ([Executive Order 20-91 12MB](#))** effective 12:01 a.m. on April 3 through April 30 (extended to May 4). The order states “all persons in Florida shall limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities.” Essential services are listed in two documents attached to the order: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce and Executive Order 20-89 with attachments.

Essential activities are:

- Attending religious services conducted in churches, synagogues and houses of worship; and
- Participating in recreational activities (consistent with social distancing guidelines) such as walking, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, running, or swimming; and
- Taking care of pets; and
- Caring for or otherwise assisting a loved one or friend.

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Note that a social gathering in a public space is not an essential activity. Do not gather in groups larger than ten in any public space.

This Safer At Home order encourages working from home.

## About The Order

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

The Order takes effect at 12:01 a.m., April 3 and ends on April 30 (extended to May 4).

### To whom does this order apply?

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

## Essential vs. Non-Essential Businesses

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### 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 what are considered non-essential businesses and essential businesses, [as determined by the Department of Homeland Security](#). 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?**

Child care programs can decide to close on their own should they choose, and parents can decide to keep their children home if they choose. The Florida Department of Children and Families is the regulatory agency that registers and licenses child care programs. There are five local licensing agencies in Broward, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Sarasota that regulate child care in their respective areas. DCF has provided all licensed child care programs the CDC and Department of Health guidelines. The agency continues to survey providers to assess closures and are monitoring potential COVID exposure across the state. [State Childcare FAQ](#)

## **Enforcement**

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### **How will the order be enforced?**

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will enforce the order. The Sheriff's Office does not intend to not arrest anyone and everyone who is out in the community. The goal of the order is to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Any disregard for this Executive Order may result in a misdemeanor charge under Florida State Statute 252.20.

From the Sheriff's office "It is our legal obligation to enforce this Executive Order. However, we urge citizens to use a common-sense approach. Ultimately you are safer at home and your interactions with others should be limited to essentials."

The Charlotte 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 941-639-2101.

Read more on the CCSO blog: <https://ccsoblog.org/2020/04/01/stay-at-home-order-explained/>

### **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

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### **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 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 be available?**

Charlotte County Transit will continue to operate.

### **Will garbage services still be provided?**

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

## Physical Activity

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

Yes. Charlotte County parks are open, along with the trails, boat ramps, dog parks, and baseball, softball, soccer and football fields (No organized activities permitted). Disc golf courses and fishing piers are open. Englewood Beach and Port Charlotte Beach are open. Note that all other amenities are closed, such as playgrounds, tennis courts, recreation centers, the swimming pools, etc. For information, visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click the COVID-19 Information banner.

### **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.

### **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

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### **Will the Punta Gorda Airport still be open?**

Yes. Punta Gorda 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 a Charlotte 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.

## Miscellaneous

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

Charlotte County Government is working with its partners to expand its services to address the homeless population.

### **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.