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Safer at Home: Frequently Asked Questions

March 28, 2020

www.cityoftulsa.org/covid-19



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General

WHEN DOES THE SAFER AT HOME EXECUTIVE ORDER BECOME EFFECTIVE?

This Order becomes effective at 11:59 pm on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

HOW LONG WILL THE ORDER LAST?

The Order is currently set to be in place until April 16, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Mayor.

WHAT AREAS DOES THIS ORDER APPLY TO?

This Order is in effect in all of the city limits of the City of Tulsa.

WHAT DOES THIS ORDER DO?

This order requires that residents in the City of Tulsa are to stay at their place of residence unless performing an essential duty or activity. This Order complements the State of Oklahoma's Shelter in Place Executive Order, which was issued on March 24, 2020, and became effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 25, 2020. For most people, this means you and those you live with should remain at home.

WHAT OTHER ACTIONS IS THE CITY TAKING THROUGH THIS ORDER?

In addition to limiting activity to that considered essential, the City of Tulsa has taken the following steps:

- All City-owned sport courts, golf courses, sports fields and dog parks are hereby closed, and use thereof and use of any fitness equipment, playground equipment, or shelters within City Parks is prohibited even if not locked, gated, or fenced;
- All public or private events or gatherings, defined as more than one person outside of a single household or living unit, in the City of Tulsa are hereby prohibited;
- When engaging in activity outside the household or living unit (for example, walking, biking, hiking, or running), individuals must comply with physical distancing requirements of six feet;
- If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, all members of the household should isolate at home.
- All special event permits, issued under the authority of Title 37 TRO Sections 1400 through 1415, are hereby revoked, and as of this date, no further such special event permits shall be issued and no such special events may be held in the City of Tulsa until at least April 16, 2020, when the pandemic emergency conditions will be reassessed.

WHY IS THIS ORDER IN PLACE?

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the general public, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the city.

The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the city.

WHAT CAN I KEEP DOING UNDER THIS ORDER?

Under this Order, you can still:

- Go to the grocery, convenience or warehouse store
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medical appointments (check with your doctor or provider first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery or drive-thru
- Care or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, jog and be in nature for exercise — just keep at least six feet between you and others in the community.
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian if necessary
- Help someone to get necessary supplies for their health and well-being

WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO RIGHT NOW?

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, you should not:

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this Order.
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need.
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out.
- Visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility.
- Hold or attend weddings, funerals, wakes, memorial services, or similar gatherings.

IS THE ORDER MANDATORY OR JUST GUIDANCE?

Yes, it is mandatory. This is a legal Order issued under the authority of Oklahoma law. You are required to comply. Also, it is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community.

AM I ALLOWED TO LEAVE MY HOME WHILE THIS ORDER IS IN EFFECT?

Yes. Individuals may leave their place of residence to acquire or receive essential services or supplies, ensure the health and safety of yourself and your family, engage in outdoor activity that does not involve close contact with other people, obtain services and supplies for yourself and your family, and perform employment functions that are permissible under the Order.

Products, Goods and Services

SHOULD I STOCK UP ON NECESSITIES SUCH AS FOOD AND MEDICINES?

No. You will continue to be able to purchase these items whenever you need them, as stores selling necessary items like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores will remain open. Please continue to buy normal quantities of these items on the same schedule you normally do. This will ensure that there is enough for everyone.

CAN I GO SHOPPING FOR THINGS OTHER THAN FOOD OR GROCERIES?

Yes. You can shop for anything that is related to health care, office supplies, hardware supplies, and at businesses listed as essential in the Order. You should minimize unnecessary trips.

CAN I GET MY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR OTHER HEALTH CARE SUPPLIES?

Yes. Pharmacies, healthcare supply stores, and healthcare facilities are allowed to operate.

WILL MY DAYCARE BE SHUT DOWN?

Childcare facilities may continue to operate so long as they are following guidance issued by the State of Oklahoma.

WHAT IF MY PLUMBING GETS STOPPED UP? HOW WILL I ACCESS THOSE SORTS OF SERVICES?

Call your plumber. This Order and the State's Order allows service providers like plumbers, electricians, and exterminators to keep working and providing their services to the public. To obtain supplies for a DIY solution, you can also visit your hardware store or home improvement retailers, which are allowed to stay open under this Order.

CAN I STILL ORDER THE THINGS I NEED ONLINE AND HAVE THEM DELIVERED TO MY RESIDENCE?

Yes, the State's Order identifies businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences as "essential businesses" that may continue to operate.

Travel

DOES THE ORDER ALLOW ME TO LEAVE THE CITY?

The Order allows travel out of the City only to perform “essential activities,” operate “essential business,” or maintain “essential governmental functions,” as those terms are defined in the Order.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I LEAVE THE CITY OF TULSA TO GO ON A PLANNED VACATION?

The Order requires that you remain in your place of residence. You may not leave the City of Tulsa for vacation or another reason that is not an essential purpose exempt under the Order. Traveling runs the risk of spreading the virus to other areas and exposing new populations.

I AM CURRENTLY ON VACATION OR TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE CITY. DOES THE ORDER ALLOW ME TO RETURN HOME?

Yes. You should maintain physical distancing on your way home, and then you will be subject to the limitations in this Order. If you prefer to stay indoors at your current location, you are encouraged to follow this Order while outside the City of Tulsa in order to protect yourself and others.

CAN I CONTINUE TO USE PUBLIC TRANSIT?

Public transit will continue to operate on a limited basis. Public transit can only be used to perform “essential activities,” to get to and from work to operate “essential business,” or to maintain “essential governmental functions”. Tulsa Transit is limiting the number of passengers on each bus to ensure appropriate physical distancing. People riding public transit must comply with physical distancing Requirements.

CAN I USE RIDE SHARE SERVICES OR TAXIS?

Yes, but only for essential travel. You should avoid being in a vehicle with many other people. In circumstances under which such transportation is needed, you must practice physical distancing, cover your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze, use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before and after rides. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers, like Uber and Lyft, providing transportation services necessary for essential activities and other purposes are expressly authorized in the Executive Order.

Food

I DON'T COOK - HOW CAN I PURCHASE MEALS?

Restaurants, cafes, food trucks, and similar establishments may remain open to supply meals to the public via delivery and carryout. You can also purchase prepared foods at grocery stores, supermarkets, certified farmers' markets, convenience stores, and other such food retailers. In this respect, the current Order maintains the status quo established by the previous order limiting the operation of restaurants.

HOW CAN I ACCESS FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS FOR MYSELF OR MY FAMILY?

Schools, soup kitchens, food banks, and other entities that provide free or reduced-price food goods or meals to students or other members of the public are encouraged to continue providing these services. However, food provided by these establishments to the public may not be eaten on the premises but must instead be delivered or taken away for consumption. To view information on local resources available to individuals and families, please visit: [City of Tulsa's COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

SHOULD I STOCK UP ON NECESSITIES SUCH AS FOOD AND MEDICINES?

No. You will continue to be able to purchase these items whenever you need them, as stores selling necessary items like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores will remain open. Please continue to buy normal quantities of these items on the same schedule you normally do. This will ensure that there is enough for everyone.

Health

I BECAME ANXIOUS WHEN COOPED UP IN MY HOUSE. AM I ALLOWED TO GO TO A PARK OR ON A HIKE?

Yes. Spending time outside improves mood and wellbeing and is particularly beneficial to children. You can go for walks and open park areas, but should maintain physical distance (i.e. be more than 6 feet away from persons who are not part of your household) when on walks and in parks to avoid spread of the virus. Persons at high risk for contracting COVID-19 should consider taking advantage of online fitness classes.

ARE PUBLIC PARKS CLOSED?

Under current City Order, all City, County and River Parks playgrounds are closed. Additionally, City of Tulsa playgrounds, adult fitness facilities, sports courts (tennis, pickleball and basketball), dog parks, and skate parks are closed.

Trails, open space, disc golf and City and County golf courses will stay open.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M FEELING SICK?

Unless you are experiencing a medical emergency, call your doctor, nurse hotline, or urgent care center first before going to the hospital. Call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are experiencing a medical emergency.

CAN I GET MY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR OTHER HEALTH CARE SUPPLIES?

Yes. Pharmacies, healthcare supply stores, and healthcare facilities are allowed to operate.

Business

Note – Please see the **Safer at Home: Worker and Industry** Guide for additional information related to determining which workers and businesses are considered essential under the State of Oklahoma’s Executive Order.

WILL ALL BUSINESS OFFICES AND STORES BE REQUIRED TO CLOSE? WHAT ARE “ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES”?

Governor Kevin Stitt issued the [Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07](#) and [Amended Executive Memorandum 2020-01](#), which establishes those businesses and workers considered essential. For additional information on the Order, visit the [Oklahoma Department of Commerce’s COVID-19 Resource Page](#). To inquire with the State of Oklahoma regarding essential business designation, please [click here](#).

Reporting and Compliance

WHAT IF I SEE A BAR, RESTAURANT WITH DINE-IN CUSTOMERS OR OTHER NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES STILL OPERATING IN THE CITY OF TULSA?

The intent of the Executive Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. To report a violation of the Executive Order, call the TPD non-emergency line at (918) 596-9222.

The Executive Order directs that there should not be gatherings in any formal setting – the below businesses should be closed per the Executive Order.

- All bars, wineries and brew-pubs
- Dining-in at restaurants (take out and home delivery with physical distancing may continue)
- Bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption.
- Hookah bars, cigar bars, and vaping lounges offering their products for on premises consumption.
- Theaters, cinemas, indoor and outdoor performance venues, and museums.
- Gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, and spas.
- Amusement parks, arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, indoor climbing facilities, skating rinks, trampoline parks, and other similar recreational or entertainment facilities.

ARE INDIVIDUALS REQUIRED TO REPORT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHETHER THEY ARE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL OR NON-ESSENTIAL WORKERS?

No. At this time the City of Tulsa does not require individuals to report their status as an essential or non-essential worker. Individuals should continue to minimize unnecessary trips and activities in order to reduce the potential spread of the virus.

ARE BUSINESSES REQUIRED TO REPORT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHETHER THEIR OPERATIONS ARE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL OR NON-ESSENTIAL, OR TO REPORT ANY DETAILS ON THE LEVEL OF THEIR OPERATIONS UNDER THE ORDER?

No. At this time businesses are not required to make formal reports to local government officials. **If you would like assistance in determining whether your operations are essential or non-essential, please use [this form](#)**, provided by the State of Oklahoma.