



August 17, 2020

Summary of ‘Empowering A Healthy Georgia’ Executive Order 08.15.20.01

On August 15th Governor Brian Kemp issued [executive order 08.15.20.01](#) addressing Georgia’s ongoing public health state of emergency and furthering the Governor’s initiative on Reviving a Healthy Georgia. In a previous [executive order, 07.31.20.01](#), the Governor extended the public health state of emergency through September 10th, 2020. The executive order 08.15.20.01 (“EO”) includes the following directives:

Through August 31st all visitors and residents of Georgia shall continue to practice social distancing, are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings, are required to practice sanitation in accordance with CDC guidelines, and implored to avoid gatherings of more than 50 people in which social distancing cannot be practiced.

Georgia citizens in the following categories are asked to “shelter in place” (avoiding anything other than essential services, necessary travel, or engaging in gainful employment) until August 31, 2020:

- ◆ Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements, and community integration homes.
- ◆ Those persons who have chronic lung disease.

- ◆ Those persons who have moderate to severe asthma.
- ◆ Those persons who have severe heart disease.
- ◆ Those persons who are immuno-compromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medication.
- ◆ Those persons, of any age, with class III or severe obesity.
- ◆ Those persons diagnosed with the following underlying medical conditions: diabetes, liver disease, and persons with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis.

Until August 31, 2020, citizens in one of the aforementioned categories are subject to a “shelter in place” order and are restricted as to when they may leave the home and how they may receive visitors, except in case of emergency.

The following provisions for business operations are in effect through August 31, 2020. These provisions may or may not be extended by a future executive order:

- ◆ **Restaurants & Dining Services** (including banquet halls and private event facilities) that have resumed dine-in service shall implement measures which mitigate the



exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its patrons and workforce. The EO lists 35 measures that Restaurants and Dining Services shall abide by. Additionally, the Department of Public Health may extend inspection timelines for any restaurant with a current “A” rating.

- ◆ **Critical Infrastructure Businesses**, as defined by the Department of Economic Development, shall implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent practicable. Such measures may include, but shall not be limited to, 16 measures listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Businesses that are NOT Critical Infrastructure** may continue in-person operations. However, those businesses *shall* implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce. Such measures *must* include the 20 measures listed in the EO, and *should*, when possible, include an additional 3 measures as listed.
- ◆ **Grocery Stores and Food Establishments** shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as practicable. These additional measures shall include 11 measures as listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Gyms and Fitness Centers** shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as practicable. Such measures shall include 17 measures listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Body Art Studios, Estheticians, Hair Designers, Massage Therapists, and Tanning Facilities** shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as practicable. Such measures shall include 11 measures as listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Movie Theaters** may operate and shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Such measures shall include 7 measures as listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Bowling Alleys** shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Such measures shall include 8 measures as listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Bars** may continue in-person operations. Bars, in addition to the requirements on “Non-Critical Infrastructure” shall take an additional 39 measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Such measures are listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Operators of Amusement Rides** (traveling carnivals, water parks, circuses, etc.) in addition to the requirements on “Non-Critical Infrastructure” shall take an additional 33 measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Such measures are listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Healthcare Services** shall adhere to the guidelines listed under “Critical Infrastructure” Businesses.
 - Special provisions for the licensure of dental hygienist and dentist can be found on pages 27-28 of the EO.
- ◆ **Childcare Facilities** shall maintain Worker-Child Ratios set forth by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Additionally, Childcare Facilities shall implement 13 measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 that are listed in the EO.
- ◆ **Summer Camps and Overnight Camps** may operate in accordance with previous EOs.



Summer camps shall implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among campers and such measures shall include but are not limited to 33 measures listed in the EO. Additional guidelines for Campers and Workers can be found on pages 26-30.

- ◆ **Conventions** operators must abide by 21 COVID-19 mitigation efforts, listed in the EO.

Guidelines for Sports and Live Performance Venues

- ◆ **Live performance venues** are divided into three tiers based on their fire code capacity with corresponding requirements.
 - **Tier One** is facilities holding 999 or fewer persons. The EO lists 23 COVID-19 mitigation measures the venue shall abide by.
 - **Tier Two** is facilities holding between 1,000 and 4,999 persons. These facilities must abide by the mitigation efforts set out in Tier One and may, as practicable, use an additional 7 mitigation guidelines set out in the EO.
 - **Tier Three** is facilities holding 5,000 or more persons. **Professional Sports** in Tier III facilities shall abide by the rules or guidelines that have been promulgated or approved by the respective professional league of the sport. **For all other events**, measures may be developed in conjunction with the performer(s), and, if applicable, the organizer(s), promoter(s), or sponsor(s) of the event. Such guidelines shall not be inconsistent with the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- ◆ **Exemptions to Live performance venues rules include** drive-in venues and

performance venues with events closed to the public. Examples of this type of activity may include recording sessions for artists, live stream performances, practices, spectator-less competitions, and rehearsals.

- ◆ **Professional Sports Teams** and professional sports organizations that engage in practices, games, or other in-person operations shall operate solely pursuant to the rules or guidelines that have been promulgated or approved by the respective professional league of the sport.
- ◆ **Collegiate and High School Sports Teams** and organizations that engage in practices, games, or other in-person operations shall operate solely pursuant to the rules or guidelines that have been approved by the applicable conference or association.
- ◆ **Amateur sports teams** and amateur sports organizations that continuing in-person operation shall adhere to the guidelines for “non-Critical Infrastructure” organizations.

In addition to provisions for business operations and medically fragile Georgians, the Governor set out further guidelines for government operations in EO 08.15.20.01

- ◆ Provisions for the extension of some deadlines and wavier of some rules for Local Governments can be found on pages 36-39.
 - Provisions for the executions of in-person meetings and remote notarizations are on page 37.
 - Provisions for Local Option Face Covering Requirements are set out in the EO on pages 38-39, such requirements must comply with the 7 rules as listed. Any local government issuing a Local Option Face Covering Requirement



must, with the Department of Public Health, show a prevalence in the county of more than 100 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people.

- ◆ Rules regarding foster homes and children’s custodial arrangements can be found on page 35.
- ◆ Provisions for the operation of school districts can be found on pages 28-30.
- ◆ Provisions for the extension of renewal deadlines for weapons carry licenses are on page 40.
- ◆ Provisions for the enforcement of the EO can be found on page 47.

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