

HR Tracker, ¶46,782, Colorado orders all non-critical businesses to close temporarily — STATE LAW, (Mar. 27, 2020)

Colorado Governor Jared Polis on March 25, 2020, issued Executive Order No. D 2020-017 ordering Coloradans to stay in place beginning on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 a.m. and lasting until April 11, 2020, in response to COVID-19.

Under the Order, all businesses other than those qualified as “Critical Businesses” under Public Health Order 20-24 or any Public Health Order issued pursuant to this Executive Order, to close temporarily, except as necessary to engage in minimum basic operations needed to protect assets and maintain personnel functions, as of March 26.

This executive order means Coloradans should not be leaving their homes except for critical activities including:

- Obtaining food and other household necessities including medicine
- Going to and from work if you are a critical employee
- Seeking medical care
- Caring for dependents or pets
- Caring for a vulnerable person in another location
- Cannabis and liquor stores will remain open
- Or participating in outdoor recreation at a legally-mandated safe distance of six feet or more from other parties

A list of “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) on the Stay in Place Order is found [here](#).

Updated exemptions

In addition, Governor Polis and the Department of Public Health and Environment released an Updated Public Health Order 20-24 to include a number of critical services, such as:

- K-12 public and private schools for the purpose of providing meals, housing, facilitating or providing materials for distance learning, and providing other essential services to students.
- Postsecondary institutions including private and public colleges and universities for the purpose of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that Social Distancing Requirements are observed, such as security, medical and mental health service, housing, food service, and critical research
- Pastoral services for individuals who are in crisis or in-need of end-of-life services
- Houses of worship may remain open, but must practice social distancing or use electronic platforms
- Professional services, such as legal, title companies, or accounting services, real estate appraisals and transactions

All services included in the public health order are subject to social distancing requirements and are still encouraged to implement telework options and staggered schedules when possible. Businesses that have temporarily closed under the order can continue Minimum Basic Operations to protect assets.

Disaster request

Colorado continues facing a shortage of resources in addressing this pandemic, which is why the Governor sent a letter to the Trump administration urging the president to declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado. A major disaster declaration would free up resources for medical care, housing, unemployment assistance, crisis counseling, hazard mitigation and more. California, Washington and New York have received these declarations.

Source: State of Colorado, Office of the Governor, Press Release, March 25, 2020.