

HR Tracker, ¶46,830, D.C. mayor issues stay at home order — STATE LAW, (Apr. 3, 2020)

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser on March 30 issued a “Stay at Home” order (Mayor’s Order 2020-054) for the District, due to an increasing number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases.

The provisions of Mayor’s Order 2020-053 regarding which businesses are essential; promoting telework; and allowing Minimum Business Operations of Non-Essential Businesses and subsequent guidance published on coronavirus.dc.gov remain in effect.

Also, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) may request and an Essential Business must provide, its plans for complying with the requirement to minimize person-to-person contact and achieve to the greatest extent feasible, Social Distancing.

Non-Essential Businesses conducting Minimum Business Operations pursuant to Mayor’s Order 2020-053 or fuller operations under a Waiver granted by HSEMA may be asked to show their operational plan and why the activities they are conducting, and how they are conducting them, fit within allowable limits.

The DCRA may impose penalties including summary closure of businesses, subject to subsequent hearings at the Office of Administrative Hearings; Notices of Infractions and Orders to Show Cause why a Business Should not be Closed; Notices of Infractions and Penalties of up to \$1,000 per day for violations per site operating in violation of this Order or Mayor’s Order 2020-053; and penalties of up to \$5,000 per day per site for operation after an Order to close, or a visit by an inspector that resulted in a warning or a request to close, that was immediately complied with.

Essential Businesses or Government Buildings or Facilities that remains open to the public with an expected occupancy or attendance of more than 10 people must promptly and conspicuously post in the building or facility a copy of the requirements for social distancing found on the coronavirus.dc.gov website as may be amended from time to time by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health).

Under the Order, residents may only leave their residences to:

- engage in essential activities, including obtaining medical care that cannot be provided through telehealth and obtaining food and essential household goods;
- perform or access essential governmental functions;
- work at essential businesses;
- engage in essential travel; or
- engage in allowable recreational activities, as defined by the Mayor’s Order.

Any individual who willfully violates the stay-at-home order may be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, subject to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

The stay-at-home order is in effect as of April 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.