

HR Tracker, ¶46,828, Florida governor issues “Safer at Home” order to combat COVID-19; limits movement on all but essential services and activities — STATE LAW, (Apr. 3, 2020)

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on April 1, 2020, issued “Safer at Home” Executive Order No. 20-91 to combat the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Executive Order is effective as of 12:01 a.m. on April 3, 2020, and remains in effect until April 30, 2020, unless extended by a subsequent order.

Governor DeSantis issued the Order in concert with federal efforts of President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force to fight COVID-19, and based on guidance by the Florida Surgeon General and State Health Officer, mandating that all persons in Florida limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or to conduct essential activities, such as medical and health care, food, and telecommunications. When outside the home, individuals are to practice social distancing of 6 feet or more when possible.

The Executive Order also orders senior citizens and those with underlying medical conditions to “stay at home” and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

All businesses and organizations are encouraged to provide delivery, carry-out or curbside service outside of the business or organization, of orders placed online or via telephone, to the greatest extent possible.

The Order does not prohibit individuals from working from home and, in fact, individuals are encouraged to do so.

Per prior Executive Order 20-83 and the Florida Department of Health’s March 25 Public Health Advisory, all business owners, supervisors, managers and others in charge of conducting business in the state of Florida should allow employees to telework to the extent that can be accomplished without a significant disruption to the ability to conduct business. Employers are to make every effort to reduce the onsite workforce to 50% capacity, where possible, to the extent such reduction can be accomplished without significantly disrupting the ability to conduct business.

Essential services

“Essential services” are those listed in the March 28, 2020, Advisory Memorandum of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, as well as any subsequent lists published.

Essential services also includes those businesses and activities designated by Executive Order 20-89 designated by Miami-Dade County through multiple orders.

The State Coordinating Officer, in close coordination with the State Health Officer, may add to the list of essential services. In addition, the State Coordinating Officer is to maintain an online list of essential services, with updates, on the Division of Emergency Management’s website at www.floridadisaster.org and on the Florida Department of Health’s website at www.floridahealth.gov

Essential activities

“Essential activities” under the order means:

- 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 and swimming;
- Taking care of pets; and
- Caring for or otherwise assisting a loved one or friend.

These activities may also be updated, with an online list maintained by the State Coordinating Health Officer.

Social gatherings in a public place are not permitted. Local jurisdictions are to ensure that groups of people greater than 10 are not permitted to congregate in a public place.

Prior orders

This order is in addition to and does not supersede any Executive Order relating to COVID-19. However, the Governor's Order does supersede any conflicting official action or order issued by local officials in response to COVID-19 but only to the extent that such action or order allows essential services or essential activities that are prohibited by this Executive Order No. 20-91.

Executive Orders 20-68 (restrictions on bars, pubs, nightclubs, and restaurants) and 20-71 (alcohol sales, bars and restaurants, gyms) remain in effect through the duration of the state of emergency declaration Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions.

Resources

For updates on COVID-19 issued by the Florida Department of Health, see [here](#).

For a full list of Executive Orders of the Governor, see the Florida Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Response (COVID-19) list of Governor's Actions.