

State Employment Law Tracker, ¶20,105D, Gov. Cooper issues stay at home order, Essential businesses may remain open — NORTH CAROLINA — State news, (Mar. 30, 2020)

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper on March 27, 2020, ordered people in the state of North Carolina to stay at home for 30 days, until April 29, 2020, in another step to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 121 takes effect on Monday, March 30 at 5:00 PM and reduces the size of gatherings to 10 people. The Order provides for essential businesses to continue to operate while prioritizing social distancing measures. The Order has the force of law and will be enforced in all 100 counties statewide.

"To continue our aggressive battle against COVID-19, I have signed a Stay at Home Order for the entire state of North Carolina. Though it is difficult we must do this to slow the disease spread," said Governor Cooper. "We need our medical system to be able to care for the friends and family we know will become seriously ill from the virus."

Unless noted in the order, previous closures and orders stand as written as do local government orders in cities and counties.

All businesses and operations in the state, except for COVID-19 essential businesses and operations, are required to cease all activities within the state except minimum basic operations. Businesses, including home-based businesses, may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (working from home).

All essential businesses and operations are directed, to the maximum extent possible, to direct employees to work from home or telework.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Order can be found [here](#).

Businesses that think they should be included on the essential services list in the order can apply online at the NC Department of Revenue to be designated essential [here](#). Such businesses may continue to operate while being reviewed for exemption, provided that the business can accommodate social distancing in the workplace.

Source: State of North Carolina, Office of the Governor, News Release, March 27, 2020.