

## **HR Tracker, ¶46,797, Non-essential businesses ordered closed in Oklahoma counties with community spread of COVID-19 — STATE LAW, (Mar. 30, 2020)**

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt on March 24, 2020, held a press conference to provide an update on the State's response to COVID-19 and announce amendments to Executive Order 2020-07.

"We remain committed to making decisions based on reliable data, emerging science and the advice of experts from my Governor's Solution Task Force, the State Department of Health and the CDC on how to best slow the spread of COVID-19," said Governor Stitt. These new action items will allow us to ensure we remain proactive in our response to this on-going crisis. We will continue to take the necessary precautions and steps in order to prioritize the health and safety of all 4 million Oklahomans."

Effective as of March 25, 2020, all businesses not identified as being within a critical infrastructure sector, as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and located in a county experiencing community spread of COVID-19, as identified by OSDH on its website, must close. Additional sectors may be designated as critical by Executive Order or Memorandum. This does not prevent restaurants and bars from providing pick-up, curbside and delivery. This mandate is in effective from March 25 through April 15.

The amended Executive Order also provides for the following statewide measures:

- Issues a statewide "Safer at Home" order for adults over the age of 65 and vulnerable individuals with serious underlying medical conditions.
- Limits gatherings to no more than 10 people.
- Prohibits visitations to nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Postpones all elective surgeries, minor medical procedures and non-emergency dental procedures until April 7, 2020.

The amended Executive Order provides for the following measures in counties with community spread:

- Requires restaurants in Oklahoma counties with confirmed COVID-19 cases to provide take-out and delivery options only and closes all bars in those counties.

### **County-by-county compliance**

As of a March 27 Oklahoma State Department of Health advisory update, there are 322 positive cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma. New counties with cases include Caddo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Latimer and Pittsburg counties. These counties will now be required to come into compliance with Governor Kevin Stitt's "Safer at Home" executive order that calls for non-essential businesses in counties with COVID-19 cases to temporarily suspend services until April 16.

For more information, visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health website.

### **Elective medical procedures suspended**

On March 27, 2020, the Governor clarified that through his Executive Order 2020-07 all elective surgeries and minor medical procedures are to be postponed until April 7. The Governor clarified that any type of abortion services as defined in 63 Oklahoma Statutes Section 1-730(A)(1) which are not a medical emergency as defined in Section 1-738.1 or otherwise necessary to prevent serious health risks to the unborn child's mother are included in that Executive Order. This also includes routine dermatological, ophthalmological, and dental procedures, as well as most scheduled healthcare procedures such as orthopedic surgeries. The rapid spread of COVID-19 has increased demands for hospital beds and has created a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to protect health care professionals and stop transmission of the virus.

Federal guidance on the essential critical infrastructure workforce can be found here.

**Source:** State of Oklahoma, Office of the Governor, Press Release, March 24, 2020.