

City of Columbia Coronavirus Response FAQ

ORDINANCE NO.: 2020-034

An Emergency Order Declaring a Stay Home Stay Safe for the City of Columbia, South Carolina

- **What are the criteria for businesses listed as “Essential Services?”**

Essential health care operations including: research and laboratory services, hospitals, walk-in-care health facilities, veterinary and livestock services, elder care, medical wholesale and distribution, home health care workers or aides, doctor and emergency dental, nursing homes, or residential health care facilities or congregate care facilities, medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers.

Essential infrastructure operations including: utilities including power generation, fuel supply and transmission, public water and wastewater, telecommunications and data centers, airports/airlines, transportation infrastructure such as bus, rail, or for-hire vehicles, garages, vehicle, bicycle, motorcycle and moped sales, rentals and services, hotels, and places of accommodation, the South Carolina Port Authority.

Essential manufacturing operations including: food processing, manufacturing agents, including all foods and beverages, chemicals, medical equipment/instruments, pharmaceuticals, sanitary products, telecommunications, microelectronics/semi-conductor, agriculture/farms, household paper products, vehicle and aircraft manufacturing, printing and copying service operations.

Essential retail operations including: grocery stores and all food and beverage stores, pet stores that sell food and or medications, big box stores, or wholesale clubs that have in house grocery or pharmacy services, pharmacies, convenience stores, direct farm to consumer sales, gas stations, restaurants/bars (but only for take-out or/delivery), hardware and building material store and online retailers that deliver products and services to individual's homes or businesses.

Other essential service operations: including garbage, trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, laundromats and dry cleaning, building cleaning and maintenance, child care services, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries, storage for essential businesses, animal shelters, educational institutions, for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions.

News media.

Financial Institutions and Professional Services operations including banks, credit unions and check cashing services, insurance, payroll, accounting, services related to financial markets and legal services. Travel agencies for the purpose of cancellations and refunding

Providers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations including, homeless shelters and congregate care facilities, food banks, human services providers whose function includes the direct care of patients in state-licensed or funded voluntary programs, the care, protection, custody and oversight of individuals both in the community and in state-licensed residential facilities; those operating community shelters and other critical human services agencies providing direct care or support.

Commercial and residential construction including, skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers, landscape services, pool maintenance, nurseries, other related construction firms and professionals for essential infrastructure or for emergency repair and safety purposes, other construction where the contractor can ensure social distancing.

Defense operations including defense and national security-related operations supporting the U.S. Government or a contractor to the US government.

Essential services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences or other essential businesses including, law enforcement, fire prevention and response, building code enforcement, security, emergency management and response, building cleaners or janitors, general maintenance whether employed by the entity directly or a vendor, automotive, motorcycle and bicycle repair, disinfection mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery and pick-up services.

Residential and commercial real estate brokers and real estate management.

- **What are potential penalties for any business declared as “non-essential” that continues to remain open and in business? And who will enforce the ordinance?**

Any person violating any provision of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to punishment as set forth under Sec. 1-5 of the City Code. Each day of violation shall be considered a separate offense.

City Ordinance 034 will be enforced by the City of Columbia Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal, Police Department, Building Inspections Division, and their designees, and Livability Code Enforcement Officers are hereby authorized to inspect and determine whether Essential Operations are in compliance.

- **When will the “Stay at Home” ordinance go into effect?**

Effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, March 29, 2020.

- **The state of emergency and curfew ordinances each had termination dates. Does the new Stay Home Stay Safe ordinance have a termination date as well?**
Yes, this ordinance will be in effect until expiration 14 days after enactment.

- **What is the City doing to help small businesses?**

City Council has enacted the Resilient Columbia: Economic Sustainability Plan. For more information visit <https://www.columbiasc.net/headlines/03-20-2020/a-resilient-columbia>.