



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

**Gov. Sisolak Guidance: Directive 003 – Essential Businesses (updated
4/16/2020)**

March 27, 2020 Las Vegas, NV

**Understanding Governor Sisolak’s Directive for Non-Essential
Businesses**

Q: What is an “ESSENTIAL BUSINESS”?

A: Essential businesses are those licensed businesses that are encouraged to continue operation, but must adopt COVID-19 risk mitigation measures that reduce the risk of community disease spread. These businesses include:

- Essential healthcare services
- Businesses that sell or rent medical supplies
- Essential infrastructure operations like construction & manufacturing, agriculture, and utilities
- Grocery stores
- Retailers that sell food items and other household essentials
- Restaurants offering meals via take-out, drive-through, curbside pickup, or delivery
- Entities that provide food, shelter, or social services for vulnerable populations
- Businesses that ship or deliver goods directly to residences
- Licensed cannabis entities (delivery only)
- Pet supply stores and animal shelters
- Financial institutions
- Pawnbrokers
- Hardware stores and home improvement centers
- Auto supply, auto repair, and tire shops (please note, auto showrooms are to remain closed throughout the Declaration of Emergency)
- Laundromats and dry cleaners
- Warehouse and storage facilities
- Transportation services like taxis and rideshares
- Mail and shipping services

- Businesses that supply – on a curbside pickup or delivery basis – products necessary for people to work from home, like office supply and electronics stores
- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, home security, and other similar service providers
- Professional or technical services
- Childcare facilities
- Residential facilities and shelters
- Media services
- Lodging
- Gas stations
- Propane Services

For more information on essential businesses, click here: [**“ESSENTIAL BUSINESS”**](#)

Q: What is a [“NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS”**](#)?**

A: Non-essential businesses include, but are not limited to, those businesses that promote recreational social gathering activities, or promote extended periods of public interaction where the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is high. These businesses were ordered closed by 11:59pm on Friday, March 20, 2020.

- Casinos
- Recreational activities
- Beauty and grooming schools and services
- Retail facilities not defined as essential that can't ship or deliver
- Dine-in restaurants
- Brothels and houses of prostitution
- Live entertainment venues
- Nightclubs
- Pubs, wineries, bars, and breweries that don't sell food on a take-out, drive-through, curbside pickup, or delivery basis
- Sporting good and hobby shops
- Museums and art galleries
- Liquor stores
- Tattoo Parlors
- Smoke/e-Cigarette/Vape Shops

For more information on non-essential businesses, click here: [**“NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS”**](#)

Q: What does this Directive mean for services like police, fire, and public works?

A: The Governor's Directive allows industries identified in the [March 19, 2020 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber & Infrastructure Security Agency Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#) memo to continue to operate with appropriate modifications to account for CDC workforce and consumer protection guidance. Those industries include law enforcement, public safety, first responders, public works, and essential government employees.

Q: Does this mean I cannot leave my house or visit area parks?

A: No; so long as you are maintaining a safe distance of six feet from people who aren't part of your household, it is okay to go outside for exercise, a walk, or fresh air. Congregating outdoors without maintaining safe social distancing is not permitted. However, please note that some refuges and local parks have been closed. It is advised that you check relevant websites to determine park closures, restrictions, and hours. Also, you will need to adhere to ALL closure signage and obey the instructions that each park has laid out.

ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES pursuant to Declaration of Emergency Directive 003 and accompanying Emergency Regulations

The following businesses are defined as essential and may continue to operate as described below.

All essential licensed businesses must:

- Comply with social distancing guidance issued by the CDC document, "[Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#)";
- Cease operating and shut down all gaming machines, devices, tables, games, and any equipment related to gaming activity, except for licensed online gaming or mobile wagering operations; and
- Cease all door-to-door solicitation, even if the good or service offered for sale is considered essential (does not prohibit the delivery of a good or service that has been ordered by a resident or business);
- Provide curbside, pickup, or delivery of goods whenever possible;

- To the extent practicable, ensure that customers receiving orders outside the establishment maintain adequate social distancing practices by not congregating within a minimum of six feet of separation between each other;
- Disallow the formation of lines in which people congregate in a way that violates social distancing guidelines;
- Whenever possible, adopt contactless payment systems;¹

If an essential licensed business is unable to provide take-out, drive-through, curbside pickup, or delivery services, it must, to the extent practicable, limit access to its premises so that customers can maintain a minimum of six feet of separation between each other AND must implement sanitization and disinfection policies in compliance with the CDC's recommendations.

Per Directive 013 (4/8/2020) for all essential businesses that remain open:

Safety measures shall be implemented to control in-store foot traffic and social distancing standards must be maintained. When individuals obtain goods and services, they need to be spaced out and as far away from each other as possible, especially when a line is forming. Capacity should be limited to maintain 6 feet of separation between people.

Essential healthcare operations including:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Medical offices • Clinics • Healthcare suppliers • Home health care providers • Mental health providers • Dentists • Orthodontists • Oral surgeons • Physical or occupational therapists • Speech therapists and pathologists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractors • Licensed homeopathic medical providers • Biomedical facilities • Non-governmental emergency service providers • Optometrist and ophthalmologist offices • Offices for certified nurse-midwives • Veterinary services • Pharmaceuticals |
|---|---|

¹ Contactless payment systems are credit cards and debit cards, key fobs, smart cards, or other devices, including smartphones and other mobile devices, that use radio-frequency identification (RFID) or near field communication (NFC, e.g., Samsung Pay, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Fitbit Pay, or any bank mobile applications that supports contactless) for making secure payments, as opposed to the direct transfer of cash between buyer and seller.

Businesses that sell or rent medical supplies:

Rental medical equipment and supplies must be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with CDC sanitization recommendations.

Essential infrastructure operations including:

- Construction
- Agriculture
- Farming
- Housing construction
- Airport operations
- Water
- Sewer
- Gas
- Electrical
- Mining
- Public transportation
- Solid waste collection and removal
- Recycling services
- Energy, including solar
- Internet
- Telecommunications
- Manufacturing
- Food processing
- Propane Services

In addition to the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures outlined above, these businesses must maintain strict social distancing practices to facilitate a minimum of six feet of separation between workers and adopt policies and practices that ensure minimum contact between the workforce and the general public. Social distancing restrictions do not supersede any safety practices imposed on the industry by state or federal law. These businesses must also follow all applicable COVID-19 risk mitigation policies and any precautionary measures and guidance issued by the Nevada Department of Business and Industry and any other state regulatory body.

Grocery & Retail stores including:

- Supermarkets
- Food banks
- Food pantries
- Soup kitchens
- Convenience stores
- Farm and produce stands
- Pet supply stores
- Hardware stores, including home improvement centers
- Office supply stores including businesses that supply products necessary for people to work from home (curbside pickup or delivery to consumer basis only)
- Other retail sale of canned and dry goods, fresh produce, frozen foods, fresh meats, fish, and poultry

- Retailers that sell food items and other household consumer products for cleaning and personal care to promote safety, sanitation, and essential operation of households.
- Please note, grocery stores are no longer allowed to offer self-serve food options, like salad bars and unpackaged dry goods, like nuts, seeds, coffee, etc. Stores can still pre-package these items themselves and sell them, but they can no longer remain open for self-service.
- Showroom floors of essential retail stores, including appliance, furniture, and automobiles must be closed to the public. These retail stores may continue to sell goods but may only do so through delivery, shipping direct to residence, or curbside pickup.

In addition to the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures outlined above, these businesses must:

- *require food workers to strictly abide by all applicable hygiene guidelines including handwashing and glove requirements;*
- *follow CDC sanitization recommendations, including disinfecting surfaces routinely and at frequent intervals;*
- *and prohibit self-serve food and beverage, such as condiments and samples.*

Restaurants and Food establishments:

Establishments that offer meals on a take-out, curbside pickup, delivery, or drive-through basis only and food distribution pods to provide meals to students. In addition to the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures outlined above, these businesses must:

- require food workers to strictly abide by all applicable hygiene guidelines including handwashing and glove requirements;
- follow CDC sanitization recommendations, including disinfecting surfaces routinely and at frequent intervals;
- and prohibit self-serve food and beverage, including as condiments shared between unrelated customers and samples not distributed by a food worker.

Licensed cannabis entities including:

- Dispensaries (delivery only; no curbside pickup)
- Producers
- Cultivators

In addition to the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures outlined above, licensed cannabis entities must ensure that producers and cultivators strictly adhere to social distancing

protocol. Guidance on cannabis delivery services shall be issued by the Department of Taxation in conjunction with the Cannabis Compliance Board.

Financial Institutions including:

- Banks
- Pawnbrokers

Auto services including:

- Auto supply
- Automobile repair facilities
- Tire shops
- Sales on a Limited Basis
 - Please note, auto showrooms are to remain closed through the duration of the Declaration of Emergency

Transportation services including:

- Taxicabs
- Rideshare services

Taxis and rideshare services may only serve one customer or group of customers that originate at the same address at the same time or are members of the same household. "Pooling" customers is prohibited.

Services may remain operational so long as they do not require prolonged person-to-person contact, can be performed without contact with the general public, and are done while following all COVID-19 risk mitigation procedures.

Maintenance services including:

- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Exterminators
- Home security
- Other service providers who provide services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences or businesses

Professional or technical services including:

- Legal
- Accounting
- Tax
- Payroll
- Real estate

- Please note, open house and in-person showings of single and multi-family homes that are occupied by renters are prohibited. Pictures and virtual tours are encouraged, and “paperwork” is to be handled, whenever possible, via electronic means.
- Property management services

Residential facilities including:

- Shelters for seniors, adults, and children
- Retirement homes
- Assisted living facilities

Services for vulnerable people:

- Businesses and other entities that provide food, shelter, or social services for economically disadvantaged individuals, vulnerable populations, or victims of crime

Media including:

- Newspapers
- Television
- Radio
- Other media services

Lodging including:

- Hotels and motels
- Short-term rentals
- RV parks
- Campgrounds
- Dormitories
- Commercial lodging

Additional Services including:

- Child care facilities
- Mail and shipping services, including P.O. Boxes.
- Businesses that ship or deliver goods directly to residences
- Gas stations, with or without attached convenience store
- Animal shelters
- Laundromats and Dry Cleaners
- Warehouse and Storage facilities
- Landscape maintenance
- Pool cleaning and maintenance

NON-ESSENTIAL pursuant to Declaration of Emergency Directive 003, Directive 013 (4/8/2020) and accompanying Emergency Regulations

The following businesses and facilities are defined as non-essential and must be closed as of 11:59pm on Friday, March 20, 2020.

Recreational activities including but not limited to:

- Recreation and Community Centers
- Sporting Event Venues
- Fitness Facilities and Gyms
- Clubhouses
- Racetracks
- Bowling Centers
- Cinemas and Movie Theaters
- Skiing Facilities
- Theme Parks
- Zoos and aquariums (must close to the public but may maintain essential operations by staff members for the health and safety of animals)
- Golf and country clubhouses **including all** golf activities outside clubhouse settings
- Amusement Parks
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Skate Parks
- Bocce Ball Courts
- Handball Courts
- Horseshoe Pits
- Pickleball Courts

Casinos

- Gaming machines and gaming operations, except online gaming or mobile wagering operations

Beauty and Grooming Schools and Services:

- Spas
- Hairdressers
- Barbers
- Nail Salons
- Tanning and air brush salons
- Please note, in-home beauty services are not allowed. Professionals that do not abide by this are subject to disciplinary measures by their respective boards.
- Massage not provided by a physical therapist
- Waxing
- Diet and weight loss centers
- Other cosmetic services

Retail facilities not defined as essential may only sell to customers through delivery or shipping direct to residence. Businesses that are unable to do so may not be open.

Restaurant services providing in-house dining only may not be open.

Pubs, wineries, bars and breweries that do not provide meals on a take-out, curbside pickup, delivery, or drive-through basis. (Please note, beverage production facilities without food service options may remain open for the manufacture of product but may only engage in the wholesale of their product.)

Brothels and houses of prostitution

Live entertainment venues, including theaters and adult entertainment establishments

Liquor Stores may not be open for in-person retail shopping.

Other Non-Essential Businesses including but not limited to:

- Nightclubs
- Sporting good and Hobby Shops
- Tattoo Parlors
- Hookah lounges
- Smoke Shops
- Vape/e-Cigarette Shops



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Gov. Sisolak Guidance: Directive 013

April 8, 2020

Understanding Governor Sisolak's Directive on essential businesses and leisure activities

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, Governor Sisolak has issued a series of orders intended to reduce interactions between Nevadans, and limit places where Nevadans gather and the disease may spread. This Directive builds on previous efforts, implements new guidance from the Governor's Medical Advisory Team, and clarifies some previous orders to reflect necessary actions that must be taken to combat COVID-19. Below is some general guidance on what this new directive means and how it applies to you.

Why the new directive?: Although the vast majority of Nevadans have complied with our social distancing directives, some have actively sought "loopholes" to avoid our shared responsibility in minimizing spread. Additionally, as we get new guidance from our Medical Advisory Team, we implement those suggestions.

What does this mean for my leisure activities?: It means that in order for increased social distancing, some things you have typically enjoyed doing you shouldn't do during this public health crisis. This directive officially clarifies that some places that were previously open, should now be closed, including golf courses and driving ranges, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, skate parks, bocce ball courts, handball courts, horseshoe pits, and pickleball courts.

Can I still golf?: No

What does this mean for certain businesses?: This directive closes many places people have continued to congregate, like auto or appliance showrooms. Those businesses have all been deemed essential, thus all of the items that they sell can still be purchased. However, you'll have to use different forms of purchase, like shipping, curbside pickup, or home delivery

What if I would like to attend a faith based service?: During challenging times many people turn to their faith to push through. Places of worship have been encouraged to

hold services via alternative means, like videos, streaming, or broadcast. The people that are performing these services should, of course, do so in a manner that they are practicing social distancing and are encouraged to wear facial coverings. Remember, the best thing we can do right now is to Stay Home for Nevada. Because we are trying to get everyone to stay home, and we have prohibited all gatherings over ten people, this is not yet the time to get people together to celebrate their faith. Right now, nobody should be physically attending in-person worship services, including drive-in and pop-up services. Other innovative and creative ways that faith-based leaders have been using, like live simulcasts, is what's allowed right now under this directive.

I've heard of essential businesses remaining open that aren't protecting their employees. What are we doing to protect those brave Nevadans?: The Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA for short, is ensuring that all open businesses are keeping their employees safe, adhering to proper social distancing, and keeping their workplaces clean. Call NV OSHA if you'd like to alert them of any unsafe conditions.

I'm thinking about buying a new house. Can I see it?: Yes...but you'll have to look at pictures, take a virtual tour, and handle all of the paperwork (whenever possible) without seeing anyone in person. For now, "Open Houses" and in-person showings of single and multi-family homes that are occupied by renters are prohibited.

Can I call my barber or stylist to come over?: No, not while this directive is in place. Not only does it put you both at risk of spreading the disease to one another and those that you're staying at home with, it could also cost them their license!

If I'm providing an essential good or service, what should I do?: Essential businesses that are still providing goods or services need to make sure that foot traffic is kept to a minimum and ensure that social distancing standards are maintained. When going to these places, people need to be spaced out and as far away from each other as possible, especially when a line is forming.

The grocery stores are still necessary and open, but what's changing?: The changes here are straightforward and involve items that typically require more touching and interaction with the product. Self-serve food stations, salad bars, and unpackaged dry goods – like nuts, seeds, trail mix, dried fruits, etc. – have to close now and remain closed through April 30, 2020. The stores can still pre-package these items themselves and sell them, but they can no longer remain open for self-service.

Please note, additional guidance on grocery stores, distancing, cleaning, etc. can be found [HERE](#).



**NEVADA
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Nevada Health Response:
Guidance on Protecting Grocery Store Personnel
April 8, 2020

On March 17, 2020, Governor Sisolak issued a nonessential business closure order. This order determined grocery stores to be an essential business. In addition to this declaration, and upon receiving advice from the COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team, Governor Sisolak announced Nevada Health Response's Risk Mitigation Initiative. All Nevadans wishing to frequent public spaces, including grocery stores, are expected to abide by social distancing protocol – employers are expected to ensure social distancing for employees and customers; frequent and adequate hand washing; and that sick employees stay home. Employers must also provide adequate workplace hazard training about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission in languages best understood by employees.

Workplace Discrimination:

It is against the law for any employer to take any adverse action such as firing or threats against a worker for exercising safety and health rights such as raising safety and health concerns to their employer, participating in union activities concerning safety and health, filing a safety and health complaint or participating in an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)

investigation. Workers have 30 days to file their complaint with The Department of Business and Industry's OSHA and/or with Federal OSHA.

Guidance for an Effective Social Distancing Plan:

- Limit the number of customers entering the store to facilitate social distancing at store entrances, throughout store and at check-out lines.
- Require all workers to stay at least six feet away from customers and coworkers.
- Temporarily mark six-foot increments (using adhesive colored tape, chalk, etc.) on the ground or floor to ensure social distancing
- Post large print attention-grabbing signs readable from a far distance (or use portable, electronic reader boards) that inform customers of social distancing practices.
- Designate workers to monitor and facilitate distancing at check-out lines.
- Per Emergency Directive 013 (4/8/2020), grocery stores **must** discontinue self-serve food stations, salad bars, and bulk produce bins, including nuts, seeds, trail mix, coffee, or beans. These products may be sold only if offered in pre-packaged portions.

Guidance for an Effective Handwashing Plan:

- Install hand-sanitizing dispensers at store entrances and at key locations inside for customers.
- Ensure all workers know why and how to effectively wash hands for at least twenty seconds.
- Require workers to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, such as when they arrive at work, leave their workstations for breaks, eat, use tobacco, and after handling money.
- Ensure gloves are used for cart retrievers, handling money, common use of the same cash register or keypad by different cashiers, food safety and cleaning.
- Set up a schedule to keep these supplies well stocked and trash emptied.

Ensure Sick Workers Are Not at Work:

- Monitor employees for signs of illness and require sick workers to stay home.
- Ensure employees know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 caused by coronavirus exposure.

Guidance for Providing Basic Workplace Hazard Education About Preventing Coronavirus Transmission:

- Instruct all workers on social distancing, handwashing, and other store-wide safety procedures related to coronavirus.
- Teach workers the importance of hand washing before eating, drinking, or using tobacco.
- Advise on respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes

and not touching eyes, noses, and mouths with unwashed hands or gloves.

- Prohibit sharing utensils, phones, work tools, and other workplace items that are not sanitized.
- Communicate important safety messages/ updates daily with methods such as posters, reader boards, etc.

Checkout Stands and Counters

Considerations:

- Consider closing self-check stands if not all surfaces can be sanitized between customers and if it is not possible to ensure at least six feet between users.
- Consider installing “sneeze shields” at check stands, and ask customers to stand behind them, or relocate pay station keypads further away from worker.
- Have customers handle their own loyalty and payment cards for a contact free transaction.
- When supplies are available, provide disposable wipes/hand sanitizer at check-out stands for employees and customers (e.g. at keypads, registers, bagging area).
- Prohibit reusable shopping bags and provide single use bags for groceries.
- Offer Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves and face masks to employees when supplies are available.

Stocking and Surface Cleaning:

- Schedule as much stocking and deep cleaning as possible during closing hours. If a 24-hour store, stock during the slowest period of the night.
- Appoint a designated sanitation worker(s) at all times to continuously clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces on a significantly increased schedule.

Use the environmental cleaning guidelines set by the CDC.
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html

- When disinfecting for coronavirus, the EPA recommends using the longest recommended contact time and/or most concentrated solution per the label.
- Be sure to follow the label directions for FOOD CONTACT SURFACES when using the chemical near or on utensils and food contact surfaces.
- Use protective gloves and eye/face protection (e.g. face shields and/or goggles) when mixing, spraying, and wiping with liquid cleaning products, like diluted bleach.

Other Protective Measures

- Provide ways for workers to express any concerns and ideas to improve safety.
- Alert store managers or shift supervisors of strategies on handling customers or workers who are not following social distancing practices or demonstrate signs of illness during the visit. For example, it might be helpful to move a coughing customer out of line to a separate checkout station distant from others.
- Cap at 50% of store capacity based on local fire code to maximize spacing between customers. Staff should maintain a count of the number of customers exiting and entering stores.
- Communicate via signage, PSA, or advertisements that there should only be one person per household during shopping trips, whenever possible.
- Discourage the use of reusable bags.
- Provide disinfecting wipes or other methods for customers to use on carts, handles, touch pads and any other human contact points.

- Update store Accident Prevention Program (APP) to include awareness and prevention measures for diseases and viruses.

Customer Considerations:

To better protect our grocery store personnel, please consider the following recommendations while shopping for groceries:

- Minimize grocery shopping trips. Only go once a week or once every other week.
- Consider utilizing grocery delivery services.
- Shop during off-peak hours as much as possible.
- If you can, go to the grocery store alone – if possible, without children.
- Wipe down the handle of your shopping cart prior to touching it.
- Avoid picking up products you do not intend to buy, including testing produce for imperfections. If you pick it up, please purchase the product.
- Use hand sanitizer before entering and after exiting the store.
- Leave your phone in your pocket; utilize a paper shopping list instead.
- Wear a cloth face covering while you shop.
- If you use a reusable shopping bag, wash it every single time you use it.
- Consider using contactless pay methods. Wash your hands as soon as you are finished paying.

Resources:

- [Southern Nevada Health District Grocery Store Guidelines](#)
- [Nevada Health Response](#)
- [OSHA Grocery Store Guidelines](#)
- [Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#)
- [Carson City Health and Human Services](#)
- [Southern Nevada Health District](#)
- [Washoe County Health District](#)

Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission

Background

When a novel virus with pandemic potential emerges, nonpharmaceutical interventions, which will be called community mitigation strategies in this document, often are the most readily available interventions to help slow transmission of the virus in communities. Community mitigation is a set of actions that persons and communities can take to help slow the spread of respiratory virus infections. Community mitigation is especially important before a vaccine or drug becomes widely available.

The following is a framework for actions which local and state health departments can recommend in their community to both prepare for and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States. Selection and implementation of these actions should be guided by the local characteristics of disease transmission, demographics, and public health and healthcare system capacity.

Goals

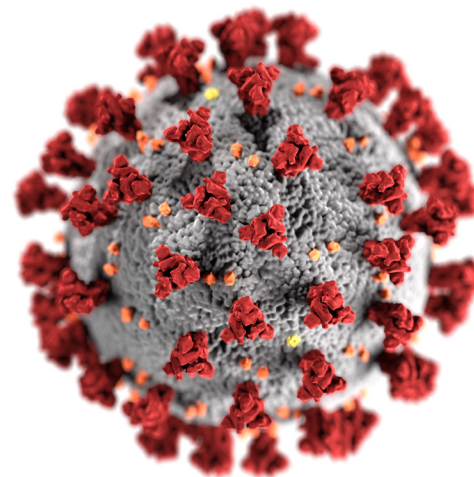
The goals for using mitigation strategies in communities with local COVID-19 transmission are to slow the transmission of disease and in particular to protect:

- Individuals at increased risk for severe illness, including older adults and persons of any age with underlying health conditions (See Appendix A)
- The healthcare and critical infrastructure workforces

These approaches are used to minimize morbidity and mortality and the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Individuals, communities, businesses, and healthcare organizations are all part of a community mitigation strategy. These strategies should be implemented to prepare for and when there is evidence of community transmission. Signals of ongoing community transmission may include detection of confirmed cases of COVID-19 with no epidemiologic link to travelers or known cases, or more than three generations of transmission.

Implementation is based on:

- Emphasizing individual responsibility for implementing recommended personal-level actions
- Empowering businesses, schools, and community organizations to implement recommended actions, particularly in ways that protect persons at increased risk of severe illness
- Focusing on settings that provide critical infrastructure or services to individuals at increased risk of severe illness
- Minimizing disruptions to daily life to the extent possible



Guiding principles

- Each community is unique, and appropriate mitigation strategies will vary based on the level of community transmission, characteristics of the community and their populations, and the local capacity to implement strategies (Table 1).
- Consider all aspects of a community that might be impacted, including populations most vulnerable to severe illness and those that may be more impacted socially or economically, and select appropriate actions.
- Mitigation strategies can be scaled up or down depending on the evolving local situation.
- When developing mitigation plans, communities should identify ways to ensure the safety and social well-being of groups that may be especially impacted by mitigation strategies, including individuals at increased risk for severe illness.
- Activation of community emergency plans is critical for the implementation of mitigation strategies. These plans may provide additional authorities and coordination needed for interventions to be implemented (Table 2).
- Activities in Table 2 may be implemented at any time regardless of the level of community transmission based on guidance from local and state health officials.
- The level of activities implemented may vary across the settings described in Table 2 (e.g., they may be at a minimal/moderate level for one setting and at a substantial level for another setting in order to meet community response needs).
- Depending on the level of community spread, local and state public health departments may need to implement mitigation strategies for public health functions to identify cases and conduct contact tracing (Table 3). When applied, community mitigation efforts may help facilitate public health activities like contact tracing



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Table 1. Local Factors to Consider for Determining Mitigation Strategies

Factor	Characteristics
Epidemiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of community transmission (see Table 3) • Number and type of outbreaks (e.g., nursing homes, schools, etc.) • Impact of the outbreaks on delivery of healthcare or other critical infrastructure or services • Epidemiology in surrounding jurisdictions
Community Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of community and population density • Level of community engagement/support • Size and characteristics of vulnerable populations • Access to healthcare • Transportation (e.g., public, walking) • Planned large events • Relationship of community to other communities (e.g., transportation hub, tourist destination, etc.)
Healthcare capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare workforce • Number of healthcare facilities (including ancillary healthcare facilities) • Testing capacity • Intensive care capacity • Availability of personal protective equipment (PPE)
Public health capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health workforce and availability of resources to implement strategies • Available support from other state/local government agencies and partner organizations

Table 2. Community mitigation strategies by setting and by level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None to Minimal	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<p>Individuals and Families at Home “What you can do to prepare, if you or a family member gets ill, or if your community experiences spread of COVID-19”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where to find local information on COVID-19 and local trends of COVID-19 cases. • Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if symptomatic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Stay home when you are sick » Call your health care provider’s office in advance of a visit » Limit movement in the community » Limit visitors • Know what additional measures those at high-risk and who are vulnerable should take. • Implement personal protective measures (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, clean frequently touched surfaces daily). • Create a household plan of action in case of illness in the household or disruption of daily activities due to COVID-19 in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consider 2-week supply of prescription and over the counter medications, food and other essentials. Know how to get food delivered if possible. » Establish ways to communicate with others (e.g., family, friends, co-workers). » Establish plans to telework, what to do about childcare needs, how to adapt to cancellation of events. • Know about emergency operations plans for schools/workplaces of household members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor local information about COVID-19 in your community. • Continue to practice personal protective measures. • Continue to put household plan into action. • Individuals at increased risk of severe illness should consider staying at home and avoiding gatherings or other situations of potential exposures, including travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor local information. • Continue to practice personal protective measures. • Continue to put household plan into place. • All individuals should limit community movement and adapt to disruptions in routine activities (e.g., school and/or work closures) according to guidance from local officials.

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None to Minimal	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<p>Schools/childcare “What childcare facilities, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities can do to prepare for COVID-19, if the school or facility has cases of COVID-19, or if the community is experiencing spread of COVID-19”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where to find local information on COVID-19 and local trends of COVID-19 cases. • Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if students or staff become symptomatic at school/childcare site. • Review and update emergency operations plan (including implementation of social distancing measures, distance learning if feasible) or develop plan if one is not available. • Evaluate whether there are students or staff who are at increased risk of severe illness and develop plans for them to continue to work or receive educational services if there is moderate levels of COVID-19 transmission or impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parents of children at increased risk for severe illness should discuss with their health care provider whether those students should stay home in case of school or community spread. » Staff at increased risk for severe illness should have a plan to stay home if there are school-based cases or community spread. • Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick and notify school administrators of illness (schools should provide non-punitive sick leave options to allow staff to stay home when ill). • Encourage personal protective measures among staff/students (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette). • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. • Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available in buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement social distancing measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reduce the frequency of large gatherings (e.g., assemblies), and limit the number of attendees per gathering. » Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger recess, entry/dismissal times) » Limit inter-school interactions » Consider distance or e-learning in some settings • Consider regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of students, staff, and visitors (if feasible). • Short-term dismissals for school and extracurricular activities as needed (e.g., if cases in staff/students) for cleaning and contact tracing. • Students at increased risk of severe illness should consider implementing individual plans for distance learning, e-learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader and/or longer-term school dismissals, either as a preventive measure or because of staff and/or student absenteeism. • Cancellation of school-associated congregations, particularly those with participation of high-risk individuals. • Implement distance learning if feasible.

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None to Minimal	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<p>Assisted living facilities, senior living facilities and adult day programs “What facilities can do to prepare for COVID-19, if the facility has cases of COVID-19, or if the community is experiencing spread of COVID-19”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where to find local information on COVID-19. • Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if clients/residents or staff become symptomatic. • Review and update emergency operations plan (including implementation of social distancing measures) or develop a plan if one is not available. • Encourage personal protective measures among staff, residents and clients who live elsewhere (e.g., stay home or in residences when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette). • Clean frequently touched surfaces daily. • Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available in all buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement social distancing measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reduce large gatherings (e.g., group socialevents) » Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger meal, activity, arrival/departure times) » Limit programs with external staff » Consider having residents stay in facility and limit exposure to the general community » Limit visitors, implement screening • Temperature and respiratory symptom screening of attendees, staff, and visitors. • Short-term closures as needed (e.g., if cases in staff, residents or clients who live elsewhere) for cleaning and contact tracing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer-term closure or quarantine of facility. • Restrict or limit visitor access (e.g., maximum of 1 per day).

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None to Minimal	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<p>Workplace “What workplaces can do to prepare for COVID-19, if the workplace has cases of COVID-19, or if the community is experiencing spread of COVID-19)”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where to find local information on COVID-19 and local trends of COVID-19 cases. • Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if staff become symptomatic at the worksite. • Review, update, or develop workplace plans to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Liberal leave and telework policies » Consider 7-day leave policies for people with COVID-19 symptoms » Consider alternate team approaches for work schedules. • Encourage employees to stay home and notify workplace administrators when sick (workplaces should provide non-punitive sick leave options to allow staff to stay home when ill). • Encourage personal protective measures among staff (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette). • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. • Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available in building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to telework (when feasible), particularly individuals at increased risk of severe illness. • Implement social distancing measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increasing physical space between workers at the worksite » Staggering work schedules » Decreasing social contacts in the workplace (e.g., limit in-person meetings, meeting for lunch in a break room, etc.) • Limit large work-related gatherings (e.g., staff meetings, after-work functions). • Limit non-essential work travel. • Consider regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of staff and visitors entering buildings (if feasible). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement extended telework arrangements (when feasible). • Ensure flexible leave policies for staff who need to stay home due to school/childcare dismissals. • Cancel non-essential work travel. • Cancel work-sponsored conferences, tradeshows, etc.

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None to Minimal	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<p>Community and faith-based organizations “What organizations can do to prepare for COVID-19, if the organizations has cases of COVID-19, or if the community is experiencing spread of COVID-19)”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where to find local information on COVID-19 and local trends of COVID-19 cases. • Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if organization members/staff become symptomatic. • Identify safe ways to serve those that are at high risk or vulnerable (outreach, assistance, etc.). • Review, update, or develop emergency plans for the organization, especially consideration for individuals at increased risk of severe illness. • Encourage staff and members to stay home and notify organization administrators of illness when sick. • Encourage personal protective measures among organization/members and staff (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette). • Clean frequently touched surfaces at organization gathering points daily. • Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available in building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement social distancing measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reduce activities (e.g., group congregation, religious services), especially for organizations with individuals at increased risk of severe illness. » Consider offering video/audio of events. • Determine ways to continue providing support services to individuals at increased risk of severe disease (services, meals, checking in) while limiting group settings and exposures. • Cancel large gatherings (e.g., >250 people, though threshold is at the discretion of the community) or move to smaller groupings. • For organizations that serve high-risk populations, cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel community and faith-based gatherings of any size.

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None to Minimal	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<p>Healthcare settings and healthcare provider (includes outpatient, nursing homes/long-term care facilities, inpatient, telehealth) “What healthcare settings including nursing homes/long-term care facilities, can do to prepare for COVID-19, if the facilities has cases of COVID-19, or if the community is experiencing spread of COVID-19”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide healthcare personnel ([HCP], including staff at nursing homes and long-term care facilities) and systems with tools and guidance needed to support their decisions to care for patients at home (or in nursing homes/long-term care facilities). • Develop systems for phone triage and telemedicine to reduce unnecessary healthcare visits. • Assess facility infection control programs; assess personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and optimize PPE use. • Assess plans for monitoring of HCP and plans for increasing numbers of HCP if needed. • Assess visitor policies. • Assess HCP sick leave policies (healthcare facilities should provide non-punitive sick leave options to allow HCP to stay home when ill). • Encourage HCP to stay home and notify healthcare facility administrators when sick. • In conjunction with local health department, identify exposed HCP, and implement recommended monitoring and work restrictions. • Implement triage prior to entering facilities to rapidly identify and isolate patients with respiratory illness (e.g., phone triage before patient arrival, triage upon arrival). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement changes to visitor policies to further limit exposures to HCP, residents, and patients. Changes could include temperature/symptom checks for visitors, limiting visitor movement in the facility, etc. • Implement triage before entering facilities (e.g., parking lot triage, front door), phone triage, and telemedicine to limit unnecessary healthcare visits. • Actively monitor absenteeism and respiratory illness among HCP and patients. • Actively monitor PPE supplies. • Establish processes to evaluate and test large numbers of patients and HCP with respiratory symptoms (e.g., designated clinic, surge tent). • Consider allowing asymptomatic exposed HCP to work while wearing a facemask. • Begin to cross train HCP for working in other units in anticipation of staffing shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict or limit visitors (e.g., maximum of 1 per day) to reduce facility-based transmission. • Identify areas of operations that may be subject to alternative standards of care and implement necessary changes (e.g., allowing mildly symptomatic HCP to work while wearing a facemask). • Cancel elective and non-urgent procedures • Establish cohort units or facilities for large numbers of patients. • Consider requiring all HCP to wear a facemask when in the facility depending on supply.

Table 3. Potential mitigation strategies for public health functions

Public health control activities by level of COVID-19 community transmission		
None to Minimal	Minimal to Moderate	Substantial
<p>Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering.</p>	<p>Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.</p>	<p>Large scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue contact tracing, monitor and observe contacts as advised in guidance to maximize containment around cases. • Isolation of confirmed COVID-19 cases until no longer considered infectious according to guidance. • For asymptomatic close contacts exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case, consideration of movement restrictions based on risk level, social distancing. • Monitoring close contacts should be done by jurisdictions to the extent feasible based on local priorities and resources. • Encourage HCP to develop phone triage and telemedicine practices. • Test individuals with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19. • Determine methods to streamline contact tracing through simplified data collection and surge if needed (resources including staffing through colleges and other first responders, technology etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May reduce contact tracing if resources dictate, prioritizing to those in high-risk settings (e.g., healthcare professionals or high-risk settings based on vulnerable populations or critical infrastructure). • Encourage HCP to more strictly implement phone triage and telemedicine practices. • Continue COVID-19 testing of symptomatic persons; however, if testing capacity limited, prioritize testing of high-risk individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May reduce contact tracing if resources dictate, prioritizing to those in high-risk settings (e.g., healthcare professionals or high-risk settings based on vulnerable populations or critical infrastructure). • Encourage HCP to more strictly implement phone triage and telemedicine practices. • Continue COVID-19 testing of symptomatic persons; however, if testing capacity limited, prioritize testing of high-risk individuals.

Appendix A: Underlying medical conditions that may increase the risk of serious COVID-19 for individuals of any age.

- **Blood disorders** (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
- **Chronic kidney disease** as defined by your doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis
- **Chronic liver disease** as defined by your doctor. (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis) Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.
- **Compromised immune system (immunosuppression)** (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS)
- **Current or recent pregnancy** in the last two weeks
- **Endocrine disorders** (e.g., diabetes mellitus)
- **Metabolic disorders** (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- **Heart disease** (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- **Lung disease** including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
- **Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions** [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].