



What you need to know about Dallas County's Safer-at-home regulations

March 23, 2020

1. Do the regulations mean I can't leave my home?

You are required to stay at home, but can leave home for the following reasons:

- Engaging in activities related to your health and safety or your family's health and safety.
- Getting supplies or services that are absolutely necessary for your household or for others.
- Going outside for exercise.
- Working to provide essential products or services at an essential business.
- Caring for a family member or pet in another household.

Because the order specifically applies to all individuals currently living within Dallas County, an individual must shelter in place unless an exemption applies. This includes all individuals who live within Dallas County but work in another county.

2. Which businesses are still open?

Only the essential businesses listed below may remain open. Other businesses may only operate if their employees or contractors are working at their own residence.

Essential Healthcare Operations

- Hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services.
- Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children.
- Because this exemption is meant to be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, the following are deemed essential healthcare operations:
 - Chiropractic providers.
 - Physical therapy providers.
- Veterinary care is included under this exception, but not elective veterinary medical, surgical, and dental procedures.

There is no requirement that essential healthcare operations be provided via telemedicine.

Essential Government Functions

- All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Essential Critical Infrastructure

- Public works construction, residential and commercial construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global,



What you need to know about Dallas County's Safer-at-home regulations

March 23, 2020

national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions, defense and national security-related operations.

- Airlines and airports are essential infrastructure.
- Landscaping companies are essential to the construction of residential and commercial properties.
- Tile manufacturing is a necessary operation for residential and commercial construction.
- Ride share companies (i.e. Uber, Lyft) are essential critical infrastructure as public transportation.

Essential Retail

- Grocery stores and other stores that sell food or other regular supplies for a house, as well as the businesses that produce, ship, and deliver those foods and supplies.
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out.
 - The delivery or carry out restriction does not apply to cafes and restaurants located inside hospitals and medical facilities.
- Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. In addition, obtaining necessary supplies for family or household members is an essential activity.
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers.
- Gas stations, auto parts stores, auto and bicycle repair shops, hardware stores, and related facilities.
- The following retail stores that sell *food products and/or household staples* are included as essential:
 - Department stores.
 - Neighborhood markets.
 - Retail stores located within a hotel.
 - Pet supply stores.
- Manufacturing facilities that produce personal hygiene products are essential businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.
- Plant nurseries are essential businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with the support of supplies needed to operate.
- Other businesses needed to support the health industry, the food industry, or other activities allowed in the order.

Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations.

- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for those in need.
- Food pantries are included.

Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses.

- Trash and recycling collection.



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March 23, 2020

- Mail and shipping services.
- Building cleaning and maintenance.
- Warehouse distribution and fulfillment.
- Storage for essential businesses.
- Funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries.
- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and other essential businesses.
- Security personnel required for maintaining the safety of residences and Essential Businesses.
- Apartment leasing offices and pool service companies.
- Management companies for public improvement districts are essential for the operation of residences and other Essential Businesses.
- Computer and cell phone repair businesses supply other Essential Businesses with the support of supplies needed to operate.
- Attorneys, together with their clients, shall determine what legal services are necessary to comply with legally mandated activities.

News Media.

- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.

Childcare Services.

- Childcare facilities providing services for employees to work as permitted.

Any manufacturer who retools so that a substantial part of its business is for the purpose of manufacturing and producing ventilators, may apply for an “essential business” exemption.

3. When I leave home for essential needs, what guidelines should I follow?

- Practice social distancing. Stay at least six feet from other people when you are outside your home. Do not gather with other people unless you live together or are a family or living unit or are engaging in an allowed activity.

4. If I feel sick, should I go to work?

- Do not go to work if you are sick. If you work in the city of Dallas at a business with six or more employees, you can use paid sick leave when you are sick or to take care of sick family members.

5. What if someone at home has COVID-19?

- If someone in your household tests positive for the coronavirus, your entire household is required to isolate at home. Members of your household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function.



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March 23, 2020

6. Can I go to church?

Religious services are limited to video and teleconference. Religious institutions must limit in-person staff to 10 people or less when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services.

7. Are hotels still open?

Hotels are a "place of residence" under the Order and are considered an Essential Business. The Order applies only to individuals currently living within Dallas County; any individual "living" in a hotel must shelter in place at the hotel and abide with the order for the duration of the order. As to those individuals not currently living in Dallas County i.e., out of town visitors, these individuals are not subject to the order.

8. How long are these rules in place for?

These rules go into effect on March 23rd at 11:59 p.m. and are in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, if not earlier rescinded.

9. Do Dallas County's regulations have an impact on anything else?

Yes, the county has also placed other regulations as follows:

- **Ensuring food and medical supply are delivered**

Any restrictions on the hours that food, medicine, or medical supplies may be delivered to stores are suspended for the next 60 days.

- **Toilet paper restrictions**

Toilet paper sales are limited to 12 rolls or one package per purchase.

- **Evictions**

Eviction hearings and writs of possession are suspended in Dallas County Justice of the Peace Courts for the next 60 days to prevent renters from being displaced.

- **Visitations to long-term care facilities for the elderly**

You may not visit a nursing home or retirement or long-term care facility unless you are providing critical assistance or making an end-of-life visitation.

- **Schools**



What you need to know about Dallas County's Safer-at-home regulations

March 23, 2020

Public and private schools and institutions of higher education must provide a safety plan to the Dallas County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management 72 hours before allowing students to return to a classroom.

10. What are Non-Essential Businesses?

Non-essential Businesses include:

- Institutions of higher education.
- Print shop.
- Estate sales/garage sales.
- Car washes.
- Real estate appraisers and inspectors.
- Movers.

For more information on COVID-19 go to: dallascityhall.com/coronavirus.