



Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

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MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

The Monroe County Health Department will provide short updates and information to share to help keep everyone informed on the rapidly changing coronavirus pandemic. These updates will not replace regular press releases for more urgent information. You can also view updates on our Facebook page (updated daily) and our website at www.co.monroe.in.us/HealthDepartment.

The Monroe County Health Department has been receiving calls regarding Governor Holcomb's recent Executive Order 20-18, which extended the Stay-At-Home order for Indiana residents from April 6th - April 20th, 2020. The new order further expands actions to help limit spread of COVID-19 within the state.

Staff developed the following in response to resident questions. For more detailed information on the order, please visit <https://www.in.gov/gov/3232.htm>.

What should Hoosiers do?

- Under Executive Order 20-18, Hoosiers **must stay at home unless they are participating in essential activities**. Essential activities include those that sustain and support life, such as healthcare/safety matters, obtaining needed supplies and services, outdoor activity, caring for others and working for an essential business.

Essential Businesses outlined in the order include healthcare and public health, human services, government, critical infrastructure, labor union and trades, non-retail food and beverage, charitable/social services, religious entities, media, banks and insurance, mail and shipping, education, transportation, home-based care and services, laundry services, residential facilities and shelters, hotels and motels, funeral services, professional services and restaurants for off-site consumption.

- Hoosiers should maintain social distancing of 6 feet between themselves and others both in and out of doors when not at home with immediate family members.
- Limit travel except for essential activities



- They should not meet in groups larger than 10, whether public or private (not including a single household or living unit) and must follow social distancing guidelines. These gatherings include government, social, philanthropic, religious, spiritual and others.
- Shop on-line for needed supplies
- In-store shopping should be postponed unless needed for sustenance, health, education, or employment. If not able to postpone;
 - limit the number and frequency of retail businesses visited to purchase goods and services
 - limit the number of household members who travel to and enter stores as much as possible
 - use on-line or call-in ordering as much as possible with delivery or curbside pick-up services
- People experiencing homelessness are not required to follow this provision but are asked to find shelter. People living in unsafe environments are encouraged to find a safer housing alternative.

What should Hoosier Businesses do?

Per the order, retail businesses that provide the necessities of life may remain open to the public under the following conditions:

- They must limit the number of customers in their facility at any given time to ensure customers remain at least six feet apart as required by the CDC's required social distancing guidelines.
- They must limit hours of operation and should consider implementing separate operating hours for the elderly and vulnerable customers.
- They must comply with social distancing and sanitation of applicable areas and other mitigation measures to protect employees and the public.

Retail businesses that provide necessities of life include: grocery stores, supermarkets, supercenters or mass merchandizers (provided they have a sizable food/grocery section), specialty food stores, certified farmer's markets, farm and produce stands, convenience stores and gas stations, pharmacies, auto sales, auto supply, auto maintenance and repair, farm equipment, construction equipment, bicycle shops, hardware and supply stores, office supply stores, pet supply stores, club stores (*i.e.*, Costco, Sam's Club), building material and supplies stores (*i.e.*, Lowe's, Menards, Home Depot).

All other retail businesses not listed as providing the necessities of life, may remain open only under the following conditions:



- Sales must be restricted to online or call-in ordering with delivery or curbside pickup.
- Businesses must comply with social distancing and sanitation of applicable areas and other mitigation measures to protect its employees and the public.

Non-Essential businesses can do” minimum basic operations” during the Stay-At-Home order as long as they follow the social distancing requirements. These include;

- Helping employees work remotely
- Building security, equipment and plant maintenance, preserve inventory, employee payroll and benefits administration, or related activities.

Employees who feel their employers are violating any of these guidelines can file a complaint with the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) at <https://www.in.gov/dol/3144.htm>.

The Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission is tasked with enforcement of the order along with the Indiana Department of Health and/or the local departments of health. Possible sanctions on businesses not complying include verbal warnings, orders to cease unsafe actions, or orders to close.

State and local law enforcement can also enforce the order. Per the order, “a knowing violation of an executive order issued pursuant to Indiana’s Emergency Disaster Law is a class B misdemeanor, punishable up to 180 days of incarceration and a fine of up to \$1,000”.

What can Hoosiers do?

Hoosiers may visit open parks and outdoor areas for outdoor activities as long as they are following social distancing. They are encouraged to wear a face covering if unable to ensure proper distancing.

Campgrounds and public access playgrounds are closed.

The intent of the order to help Hoosiers stay as safe and well as possible and to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19. While this is an unprecedented time for all, there are many things Hoosiers can do to take care of themselves, family and others:

- Reach out to friends and neighbors to check on them
- Stay connected through telephone, skype, zoom or text
- Stay up to date with accurate news sources
- Get daily exercise
- Eat healthy foods
- Get adequate sleep
- Talk to someone if anxious or depressed
- Volunteer your skills if you can

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