

Re-Opening Georgia's Economy

On April 20th Governor Brian Kemp along with Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan and Speaker Ralston announced Phase I for reopening Georgia's Economy. The priority continues to be the health and safety of Georgia citizens with a new executive order in place; guidelines for reopening have been issued. Below is a summary of what businesses are included in the order and what guidelines you need to have in place in order to operate. To see the Governor's full Executive Order [click here](#).

What directives are contained in this new executive order of April 20, 2020?

1. Previous executive orders called for the temporary closure of certain businesses including – but not limited to – gyms, rec centers, tattoo parlors, hair salons, barbers, and others that require close human contact. **Starting Friday, April 24, 2020 these businesses will be allowed to reopen and maintain “minimum basic operations” by following prescribed guidelines.**
2. Previous executive orders called for the temporary closure or limited operations of restaurants, theaters, private clubs and other similar businesses that host large gatherings of individuals. **Starting Monday, April 27, 2020 these businesses will also be allowed to reopen or allow dine-in options while following the same prescribed guidelines.**
3. Elective surgeries will also be allowed.

Bars and nightclubs are excluded from this executive order and further details pertaining to the types of businesses allowed to reopen will be coming in the days ahead.

When does this executive order take effect?

Businesses qualifying under this executive order of April 20, 2020, shall be allowed to resume in-person minimum basic operations between Friday, April 24, 2020 and Monday, April 27, 2020.

What is contained in this document?

With the assistance of our partners at the Georgia Chamber we have compiled two primary pieces of information that are relevant to businesses under this new executive order:

- A list of the minimum basic operations – located in the subsequent pages - that every business, authorized to open, must adhere to for effective and legal operation under these new parameters.
- A [link](#) to the Governor Executive Order Dated April 20, 2020

Minimum Basic Operations

The minimum basic operations (MBO) to maintain the value of a business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization, provide services, manage inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions can be found below. Such considerations include:

- The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees or volunteers being able to work remotely from their residences or members or patrons being able to participate remotely from their residences.
- Instances where employees are working outdoors without regular contact with other persons, such as delivery services, contractors, landscape businesses, and agricultural industry services.
- Such entities shall also implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce.
- Note that such minimum necessary activities include remaining open to the public subject to the restrictions of this order.

Minimum basic operations include the following:

1. Screening and evaluating workers who exhibit signs of illness, such as a fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, or shortness of breath.
2. Requiring workers who exhibit signs of illness to not report to work or to seek medical attention.
3. Enhancing sanitation of the workplace as appropriate.
4. Requiring hand washing or sanitation by workers at appropriate places within the business location.
5. Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) as available and appropriate to the function and location of the worker within the business location.
6. Prohibiting gatherings of workers during working hours.

7. Permitting workers to take breaks and meals outside, in their office or personal workspace, or in such other areas where proper social distancing is attainable.
8. Implementing teleworking for all possible workers.
9. Implementing staggered shifts for all possible workers.
10. Holding all meetings and conferences virtually, wherever possible.
11. Delivering intangible services remotely wherever possible.
12. Discouraging workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment.
13. Prohibiting handshaking and another unnecessary person-to-person contact in the workplace.
14. Placing notices that encourage hand hygiene at the entrance to the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
15. Suspending the use of Personal Identification Number ("PIN") pads, PIN entry devices, electronic signature capture, and any other credit card receipt signature requirements to the extent such suspension is permitted by agreements with credit card companies and credit agencies.
16. Enforcing social distancing of non-cohabitating persons while present on such entity's leased or owned property.
17. For retailers and service providers, providing for alternative points of sale outside of buildings, including curbside pick-up or delivery of products and/ or services if an alternative point of sale is permitted under Georgia law.
18. Increasing physical space between workers and customers.
19. Providing disinfectant and sanitation products for workers to clean their workspace, equipment, and tools.
20. Increasing physical space between workers' worksites to at least six (6) feet.

For more information on COVID-19 and managing your business, please visit

<https://columbusgachamber.com/coronavirus-update/> for a host of resources, documents and other relevant resources to best assist with future business plans.

The Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce seeks to provide access to recommendations, regulations, services and expertise to its members. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this mission remains constant. Prior to acting, members should consult their own professional advisors for information and counsel specific to the individual and unique situations faced by organizations, individuals and corporations. The opinions, interpretations and recommendations of the Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce are informational only and should not be relied upon by the recipient as legal or professional advice. The Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce makes no representations as to the accuracy or reliability of the content contained herein. Users of this information accept any and all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce has no liability to user.