

With the recent enactments of Executive Orders, we know there are lots of questions. Part of the role of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office is to help our community understand what the Executive Orders mean and how they apply to us. In an effort to help answer some of the most common questions, we have compiled a list along with answers, for your convenience.

Are you allowed to go outside of your house?

Yes. The Governor's Executive "Stay at Home" Order doesn't place anyone under house arrest. In fact, outdoor activity and exercise is encouraged, so long as you are able to maintain proper social distancing.

Do I need a letter from my employer saying my job is an essential function, so I can present it to law enforcement if I'm on my way to or from work?

No, letters are not needed or required in Kansas or any of our neighboring states. In addition, law enforcement will not be conducting traffic stops to ask if you are going to or from work or otherwise performing an essential function.

Can I leave my house to get groceries, medication, go to the doctor, care for my family, buy fuel? Yes.

Can bars and restaurants stay open?

Yes, they can remain open only for carryout / curbside pickup or delivery. No on-premise dining / drinking is allowed, though, even if there are fewer than 10 people.

Are churches allowed to hold services?

Yes, so long as they are able to maintain proper social distancing (6 foot apart).

Are daycares required to close?

No. However, to the extent possible, children should be placed in groupings of fewer than 10 and remain within the same group (i.e., not switched from one group to another group), and with employees of the child care facilities only remaining with only one group of children.

Does the Executive Order allow hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, massage parlors to remain open to customers? No.

Can indoor gyms and fitness clubs remain open? No.

Can golf courses stay open?

Yes, so long as they maintain proper social distancing and there are fewer than 10 at such facility.

Can the library be open? No.

Can automobile repair shops remain open? Yes.

Can I take my pet to the vet or groomer? Yes.

Are banks, credit unions, and payday lending locations allowed to remain open? Yes.

Can direct service providers for individuals with development disabilities continue to operate? Yes.

Can general clothing stores remain open? No.

Can liquor stores remain open? Yes.

Can car dealerships remain open? Yes.

Can automobile repair supplies companies remain open? Yes.

Can landfill facilities continue to operate? Yes.

Can utility providers remain open? Yes.

Are tax preparer's professional essential services? Yes.

Can food cultivation, livestock, farming, and fishing operations continue? Yes.

Can hotels remain open? Yes.

Are mortuary, cremation, and burial services allow to continue?

• Yes, but any related funeral services should comply with the fewer than 10-person limitation on public gatherings.

How do I know if my business is an “Essential Business” under the Kansas Essential Function Framework or what if I disagree with the answers provided above?

Email KEFF@ks.gov to seek a determination as to whether or not your business meets the criteria.

Can the Commissioners, Mayor or some other local official designate my business as essential?

No. Local authorities play no role in making a determination as to whether or not a business is considered essential under the KEFF.

Am I still expected / allowed to comply with child custody exchanges if I the “Stay at Home” order mandates I stay at home?

Yes. Court orders, including child custody orders, should still be honored.

Can court-ordered guardians and conservators leave their homes to perform guardianship and conservatorship duties? Yes.

If I’m on probation for a criminal offense, am I still required to report? Yes.

Can someone be issued a fine or citation for not following the order?

Yes, law enforcement may issue a citation for a class A misdemeanor for those who blatantly refuse to comply. In addition, the Cherokee County Health Officer may issue a closure order to any business who does not comply.

Is it okay to go fishing?

Yes, but Kansas fishing regulations still apply, such as having a valid fishing license.

Can I check in on my elderly neighbor to ensure that they are okay? Yes.

Can I go to a public park? Yes, but use of playground equipment is discouraged and may be closed by individual cities and school districts.

Does this stay-at-home order also provide a possibility for stay-in-your car activities?

Yes, as long as you stay in your car and are not congregating in a group as intended by the order.

If I just got back from a KDHE designated “high-risk” area (as of March 31, 2020 those areas include Florida, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Louisiana, Colorado, Washington State, anywhere internationally or on a cruise ship) am I mandated to quarantine for 14 days? Yes.

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Isolation means separating sick people (diagnosed or exhibiting symptoms) from those who are not sick. Quarantine means separating or restricting the movement of people who were or who may have been exposed to see if they become sick.

Is there a limitation on the number of people that can be in a public gathering?

• Yes – fewer than 10 people. A mass gathering that brings together or is likely to bring together 10 people is prohibited by Governor’s Executive Order

As long as there are fewer than 10 people, we'll all be okay right?

A group in a single room or confined or enclosed space of fewer than 10 should:

1. Preserve social distancing of six feet between people; and
2. Follow all other health recommendations and regulations

I am closing on a new house next week, does this order require my realtor and the title company to be closed? No.

I'm moving soon. Will my movers still be able to move my things to my new residence? Yes.

Does this order halt residential or commercial construction? No.

Does this order stop road repairs or ongoing bridge replacements? No.

How long is the state order effective?

The Executive "Stay at Home" Order in Kansas is in effect until April 19, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by the Governor.