March 21, 2020

Governor Issues Additional COVID-19 Executive Orders
Governor Signs Various COVID-19 Bill Package

Governor Issues Additional COVID-19 Executive Orders

Today Governor Murphy issued two Executive Orders. The first Executive Order 107 ordering all New Jersey residents to remain at their place of residence unless they are obtaining goods or services from retail businesses; obtaining takeout food or beverages; seeking medical attention, essential social services; visiting family or those with whom the resident has a close personal relationship; reporting to, or performing their job; walking, running, operating a wheelchair or engaging in outdoor activities while following social distancing practices; leaving home for educational, religious or political reasons; leaving because of fear of their health or safety; or leaving at the direction of law enforcement or other government agency. The order requires that individuals when in public must practice social distancing and staying six feet apart, whenever practicable, excluding, immediate family members, caretakers, household members or romantic partners. The order also cancels gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events unless they are permitted under the order.

The order also closed on non-essential retail establishes effective 9:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2020. The order list essential retail establishments include:

- Retail functions of mail and delivery stores.
- Retail functions of printing and office supply shops
- Car dealerships, but only to provide a maintenance and repair services, and auto mechanics
- Liquor stores
- Pet stores
- Stores that principally sell supplies for children under five years old
- Retail functions of laundromats and dry-cleaning services
- Retail functions of banks and other financial institutions
- Hardware and home improvement stores
- Ancillary stores within healthcare facilities
- Convenience stores
- Retail functions of gas stations
- Medical supply stores
- Alternative treatment centers that dispense medicinal marijuana
- Pharmacies
- Other food stores, including retailers that offer a varied assortment of foods comparable to what exists at a grocery store
- Farmer’s markets and farms that sell directly to customers
- Grocery stores

In addition, to the extent a business or non-profit has employees that cannot perform their functions via telework or work from home arrangements, the business or nonprofit should make best efforts to reduce staff on site to minimal number necessary to ensure that essential operations can continue. Examples include law enforcement, firefighters, other first responders, cashiers or store clerks, construction workers, utility workers, repair workers, warehouse workers, lab researchers, information technology maintenance workers, janitorial and custodial staff, and certain administrative staff.

All the other businesses previously closed by executive order remain closed.

The second Executive Order issued was Executive Order 108 invalidates all municipal and county orders that interfere with or impede with any of the Governor’s orders. However, Executive Order 108 still permits counties and municipalities to issue orders regulating online marketplaces for arranging or offering lodging or municipal or county parks.

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On Friday Governor Murphy signed some of the bills advanced by the legislature in response to COVID-19. The League's Town Crier blog post from today summarizes these bills.

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