



COVID-19 “Coronavirus” Shelter-in-Place 101

MARCH 18, 2020

Shelter-in-Place Order for Yolo County

On March 18, the Yolo County Public Health Officer issued a countywide health order for residents to shelter in place from March 19 through April 7, unless extended by the Public Health Officer. This order limits activity, travel and business functions to only the most essential needs and is intended to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), protect those most vulnerable to the disease, and preserve local healthcare capacity.

The shelter-at-home order follows increasing transmission of COVID-19 in California counties, including Yolo County cases that acquired the disease through travel and community transmission. In response, communities in Yolo County have implemented mitigation efforts to slow the spread of the disease, such as encouraging social distancing and cancelling nonessential gatherings.

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Yolo County has been working with partners, cities, school districts and organizations to help educate residents as well as mitigate and prevent further spread of COVID-19 into our communities. The most effective method to slow the spread of respiratory virus infections, including COVID-19, is by increasing social distancing (reduce close contact), especially for the more susceptible or immunocompromised populations (people who have a weakened immune system). By practicing social distancing, we can help prevent community transmission, lessen the strain on our already over-exerted healthcare system, and protect those most vulnerable to this disease.

On March 10, Yolo County issued strong recommendations to cancel all nonessential gatherings. A gathering is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or space at the same time.

To strengthen this effort and protect our residents, Yolo County has now issued a health order to “shelter in place” to **start March 19 and continue through April 7**, unless extended by the Public Health Officer.

Shelter in place is a term used in emergency preparedness. In this situation, what it really means is to stay at home and not leave unless necessary for a designated “essential activity.” For most people, this means you and those you live with should remain at home. You are allowed to leave your home for specified reasons to make sure you have the necessities of life such as getting food and medical supplies. You are also allowed to go outside to take care of pets, go on a walk, exercise outside, and enjoy nearby parks, so long as you do not congregate in a group and maintain at least six feet of distance between you and other people. If you are sick you should stay at home and, to the extent you can, isolate yourself from others you live with.

To see the full list and learn what is considered ‘essential’ or ‘nonessential’ please review the rest of this document.

HOW LONG IS THE ORDER IN PLACE?

This order will be in effect from March 19 through April 7, unless extended by the Public Health Officer. This order is to help protect all residents in Yolo County, especially those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

At this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible in order to:

- Reduce the number of Yolo County residents who contract COVID-19 before an effective treatment or vaccine is available;
- Protect those most likely to experience severe symptoms, particularly the elderly and those with chronic health conditions and those who have an impaired immune system;
- Preserve and protect our health care delivery system, including our health care workforce, so they can care for the least healthy individuals in the community for any medical condition, not just COVID-19; and
- Minimize the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 over the long run.

ESSENTIAL VS. NONESSENTIAL

The order allows for people to leave their residence to provide or receive essential services, engage in essential activities, and work for essential businesses and governmental services. Essential services and activities fall into these categories:

Essential Activities

- Activities or tasks essential to the health and safety of a person and/or household, including pets, or to care for a family member or pet in another household.
- Obtaining or delivering services or supplies that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and operation of residences, like getting food, consumer products, etc.
- Engaging in outdoor activities, in compliance with social distancing requirements.

Healthcare Operations

- Working for or obtaining services at a healthcare operation, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services.
- Veterinary care is included.
- Not included is fitness and exercise gyms.

Essential Infrastructure

- Providing any services or work necessary to the construction, operation and maintenance of essential infrastructure.
- Included is public works construction, construction of housing, 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, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work is in compliance with social distancing.

Essential Government Functions

- Performing or accessing essential government services, including first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement personnel, and other services as determined essential by the government entity performing those functions.

Essential Businesses

- Working for an essential business (which includes for-profit, not-for-profit, and educational entities, and businesses providing food, shelter and social services for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals).
- Blood donation and related activities.
- Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, produce stands, food banks, convenience stores.
- Any form of agricultural production and processing, including the cultivation of products for personal consumption or use through farming, ranching, livestock, and fishing, as well as business activities that support production/processing by providing agricultural supplies, including but not limited to, transportation, manufacturing, chemicals, equipment, and services such as cooling, storing, packaging, and distribution of products for wholesale or retail sale.
- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.
- Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities; laundry services.
- Banks and related financial institutions; post office boxes and mailing/shipping services.
- Hardware store and services related to plumbing, electrical, extermination and those maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences or other essential services and activities listed in the order.
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out.
- Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services may continue to do so on the condition that the food is provided on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site.
- Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- Businesses that supply products for work from home, ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residents, or that supply other essential businesses.
- Home-based care and residential facilities for seniors, adults or children.
- Airlines, taxi and other private transportation providers.
- Professional services, such as legal or accounting services.
- Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work in Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
 - Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer ("stable" means that the same children are in the same group each day); children shall not change from one group to another; if more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other; childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

Minimum Basic Operations

Businesses not designated “essential” may maintain Minimum Basic Operations, as follows:

- While practicing social distancing, carrying out such operations that maintain a business’ inventory, security, payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions and minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees being able to continue to work remotely.

Essential Travel

- While practicing social distancing, any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations; travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons; travel to or from educational institutions; travel to return to a residence; and travel required by law enforcement or court order.

Examples of Essential	
Any Healthcare Operation	Mailing and Shipping Services
Blood Donation	Banks
Grocery Stores, Farmers Markets, Food Banks, and Businesses that Ship or Deliver Groceries	Professional Services, Such as Legal or Accounting, Only When Necessary to Comply with Legally Mandated Activities
Agricultural Production and Processing	Laundry Service Providers
Businesses that Provide Food, Shelter and Services to Economically Disadvantaged Individuals	Educational Institutions, for Purposes of Facilitating Distance Learning or where Social Distancing Standards are Maintained
Services Necessary to Maintaining the Safety, Sanitation and Operation of Residences	Businesses that Supply Products for People to Work from Home
Gas Stations and Auto-Repair Facilities	Hardware Stores
Transportation Providers, Providing Transportation to Essential Activities	Home Based Care Providers, Residential Families, and Shelters
Media Services	Restaurants, but only for Delivery and Takeout
Childcare Facilities, Operating Under Mandatory Conditions	Road and Highway Construction or Maintenance
Public Works Construction	Construction of Housing
Airport Operations	Oil Refining
Water, Sewer, Gas and Electrical Operations	Solid Waste Collection and Removal
Internet	Telecommunications

Examples of Nonessential	
Gyms or Fitness Facilities	Hair Stylists and Nail Salons
Bars and Nightclubs	Restaurants That Allow Eat In Dining
Wineries and Breweries	Large Gathering of People in a Room
Sports Games	Nonessential Medical Care Should be Postponed if Possible
Religious Institutions	Theaters

DO'S AND DON'TS

Do This	Don't Do This
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop for food or household supplies • Take a walk, hike or run outside • Pick up prepared meals from restaurants, drive thru services or school meal programs • Obtain medical supplies or medication • Visit a healthcare professional, including taking pets for veterinary services • Obtain supplies needed to work from home • Deliver necessary food or supplies to friends, family, or others • Care for a family member or pet in another household • Access "essential" government services (law enforcement, first responders, etc.) • Provide childcare • Receive mail and deliveries from online purchases • Go to a retail store, bank, or gas station if needed to conduct essential services • Go to work and/or operate services and businesses designated as "essential" • Work from home, as feasible, for services and businesses designated as "nonessential" • Keep in contact with your friends and family by phone • Take public transit, rideshare, or drive to obtain or provide essential services. • Practice social distancing (an optimal six feet) between others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoard goods (keep only what you need on hand) • Travel for leisure • Attend school classes in person • Go to health clubs or gyms • Dine in at restaurants • Attend gatherings • Go to bars or nightclubs • Go to breweries or wine-tastings • Go to theaters

WHAT DOES “ENFORCEMENT” MEAN?

This is a legal order enforceable by law under California Health and Safety Code § 120295. The public is required to comply, as violation of the order can result in penalties. However, the intent of Yolo County is not to punish members of the public. Rather, the role of law enforcement is to educate and inform with legal action reserved for significant violations.

HOW YOU CAN BE SUPPORTIVE

During the shelter in place order, you will continue to be able to purchase household supplies, such as groceries, medications, or items needed to work from home. Stores selling these items (grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores) and those shipping and resupplying these stores are deemed “essential businesses” and will remain open.

For these reasons, hoarding and panic buying is not necessary and only makes this time more difficult for your friends and neighbors throughout the community. Please continue to buy normal quantities. This will ensure that there is enough for everyone.

You can still go to the park, walk outside and enjoy takeout food from local restaurants. Help keep businesses in business by continuing to use their services and products if their location is physically open or they have a website. Additionally, if you go out, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from other people; this includes any lines and queues.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For up to date information on COVID-19 within Yolo County, visit www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus
- For up to date resources and community guidance, visit our guidance page at <http://www.yolocounty.org/shelter-in-place>
- To view the order <https://www.yolocounty.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=62364>
- If you are self-isolated and need help with groceries or other resources, please call 211 or visit <http://www.211sacramento.org/211/2-1-1-yolo-county/>
- For the most recent restaurant guidance from the California Department of Public Health, click here: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Coronavirus%20Disease%202019%20and%20Food%20Beverage%20Other%20Services%20-%20AOL.pdf>
- For tips on how to best disinfect your home, take a look at the CDC cleaning guide here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-your-home.html>
- For a guide on what to do if you or a family member might be sick, please visit here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>