



**# STAY
AT HOME**

e-Alert: COVID-19

03.24.20

Closure of Nonessential Businesses in Massachusetts

Background

On March 23, 2020, Massachusetts's Governor Charlie Baker issued an emergency order mandating nonessential businesses to cease operations of their physical locations beginning at noon on March 24, 2020, through April 7, 2020.

Summary

The Governor issued a list of designated businesses that have been deemed to provide essential services in the context of COVID-19 that can continue to operate brick-and-mortar locations during this two-week closure.

Due to the evolving spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, Governor Baker has directed the

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Department of Public Health to issue a stay-at-home advisory outlining self-isolation and social distancing protocols. Massachusetts residents are advised to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and activities during this two-week time period.

The list of essential businesses was created with an aim toward supporting the health and safety of the public, and the full list can be accessed [here](#). If your business fits within a category deemed “essential,” the physical location of your business will be allowed to remain open, so long as it also fits within the social distancing guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health.

If your business does not fit within a category deemed “essential,” beginning at noon on March 24, 2020, you are encouraged to continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter a physical location.

Employer Next Steps

- Communicate to your staff what your next steps are.
- Remember: Clear, open communication with your employees is essential.
- If you are a Full-Service or Virtual HR client and would like our assistance with creating a communication or establishing next steps, please email us at covid19@hrknowledge.com
- Join us for our webinar tomorrow, March 25 at noon: [The Importance of Leadership During Crisis Management](#)

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