

# Further Details of Vermont Governor Phil Scott's Executive Order and Addendums on the COVID-19 pandemic:

Updated 3.21.20

On Friday, March 13, 2020, Vermont Gov. Phil Scott declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is additional information on what that means for Vermonters:

- **Prohibitions on gatherings of 10 or more.** Non-essential gatherings of more than 10 people in a confined interior space are prohibited during the state of emergency.
  - The prohibition applies to all social and recreational activities meeting the above criteria.
  - These spaces include auditoriums, stadiums, arenas, large conference rooms, meeting halls, cafeterias, theaters, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
  - "Non-essential gatherings" *do not include* normal operations at airports, bus or railway stations where persons may be in transit; typical office, construction, manufacturing, grocery, food production, retail and retail banking, professional or other employment environments; gatherings of the press; or operations of the Vermont Judiciary or General Assembly consistent with their constitutional authority.
  - Questions from commercial entities, employers, event sponsors and others shall be directed to the SEOC which shall provide appropriate guidance.
- **Closure of indoor service at all bars and restaurants statewide.** Food service establishments can continue to offer takeout and delivery service. This measure is effective beginning 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 and is in effect until April 6, though this could be extended.
- **Visitor access to facilities serving the elderly and ill, including hospitals and other healthcare facilities is restricted.** This will protect the elderly and those with compromised immune systems from facility-based transmissions. These restrictions will reduce these transmissions at hospitals, assisted living residences, nursing homes, residential care homes and therapeutic community residences. The restrictions do not apply to visits for people who are receiving end of life care, but all facilities may implement visitor screening recommended by the Department of Health.
  - Some facilities will have more restrictive access than others. Contact the facility to learn more before you attempt to visit.
- **Unemployment insurance will be extended.** The Department of Labor is directed to expand benefits eligibility to Vermonters who are following instructions from medical providers to self-isolate or quarantine.
  - The requirement to search for work will be removed for employees affected by the temporary closure of their workplace.

- **Certain travel for state employees is suspended.** To limit exposure and protect state employees, the suspension covers all non-essential travel out of Vermont by state employees for state business. Under this provision, the state also will develop guidelines for employees who are returning from travel out of state.
  - Telework will also be encouraged and facilitated for state employees with the ability to work remotely.
- **The Commissioner of Health will oversee investigation, coordination and mitigation efforts.** Local boards of health must consult with and adhere to recommendations from the Commissioner prior to taking any action regarding isolation or quarantine of an individual. Town health officers also will coordinate their work with the Health Department.
- **The order is in effect until April 15, 2020.** Following that date, Gov. Scott, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Emergency Management, will decide whether to continue the state of emergency.

The full text of the Governor's Executive Order can be found at:

<https://governor.vermont.gov/content/declaration-state-emergency-response-covid-19-and-national-guard-call-out-executive-order-01?fbclid=IwAR0XoQ-khgsgsIIER0Tk6jE6yuTZeezgmHC7pyju1Sq4I0BPbGNVHTwxm-o>

Up-to-date coronavirus information can be found at: [www.healthvermont.gov/coronavirus](http://www.healthvermont.gov/coronavirus)