

# Special COVID-19 Business Update

**March 21, 2019**

**Dear Businessleader,**

Gov. Murphy issued three (3) new EOs on Saturday. The first - #106 was regarding a temporary moratorium on residential evictions. The second #107 extends the prohibitions and restrictions on business from prior EO #104 - continuing the exclusion for manufacturing and construction and most businesses that do not regularly deal with the public. Other (non retail and retail "exempt" / "essential" businesses) must - to the extent possible - separate necessary workers as far as practical and have the minimum number of workers on premises to maximize productivity - having any work from home, if at all possible. The 3rd EO, #108 essentially prohibits counties or other state entities from altering the Governor's Executive Orders in any way (as Bergen County initially attempted and withdrew).

Key takeaways (excerpted from release from Governor's office):

## Closing Non-Essential Retail Businesses

- Gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events, are cancelled unless explicitly authorized by Executive Order 107. CDC guidance defines a gathering to include conferences, large meetings, parties, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies.
- Non-essential retail businesses must close storefront and brick-and-mortar operations while Executive Order 107 is in effect. Also, all recreational and entertainment businesses must close to the public, including: Casinos; Racetracks; Gyms and fitness centers; Movie theaters; Concert venues; Nightclubs; Indoor portions of retail shopping malls; and Places of public amusement. Businesses may continue any online operations.
- Personal-care businesses that by their very nature result in noncompliance with social distancing must be closed to the public as long as the Order remains in effect. This includes: Barbershops; Hair salons; Spas; Nail and eyelash salons; Tattoo parlors; Massage parlors; Tanning salons; and Public and private social clubs.
- Bars and restaurants in New Jersey must be closed for on-premise service and may provide take-out and delivery service only. Drive-throughs, take-out, delivery offered by restaurants, and other delivery services can continue to operate.

Exemptions:

Essential retail businesses that are exempt from the mandate to cease storefront operations include:

- Grocery stores, farmer's markets and farms that sell directly to customers, and other food stores, including retailers that offer a varied assortment of foods comparable to what exists as a grocery store;
  - Pharmacies and medical marijuana dispensaries;
  - Medical supply stores;
  - Gas stations;
  - Convenience stores;
  - Ancillary stores within healthcare facilities;
  - Hardware and home improvement stores;
  - Vehicle rental locations;
  - Banks and other financial institutions with retail functions;
  - Laundromats and dry-cleaning services;
  - Stores that principally sell supplies for children under five years;
  - Pet stores;
  - Car dealerships, but only for auto maintenance and repair, and auto mechanics;
  - Printing and office supply shops;
  - Mail and delivery stores; and
  - Liquor stores.
- All businesses or non-profits must accommodate their workforce for telework or work from home arrangements wherever practicable. To the extent they have employees who need to be on site, they should operate with the minimal number of on-site employees as possible to ensure critical operations can continue. Examples of such employees include cashiers or store clerks, construction workers, utility workers, repair workers, warehouse workers, lab researchers, IT maintenance workers, janitorial and custodial staff, and certain administrative staff.
  - Manufacturing, industrial, logistics, ports, heavy construction, shipping, food production, food delivery, and other commercial operations may continue operating, but as explained above, they should limit staff on site to the minimal number to ensure that essential operations can continue.
  - Medical facilities may continue to operate. Medical facilities include any facility where a sick or injured person is given care or treatment, such as: doctor's offices, hospitals, dentist offices, long-term care facilities, and other medical offices.

#### Other Information

Employees reporting to work are permitted to travel to and from their place of business. Businesses are encouraged to give each employee a

letter indicating that the employee works in an industry permitted to continue operations.

full link from today's release below:

<https://faq.business.nj.gov/en/collections/2198378-information-for-nj-businesses-on-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Additional resources can be found at:

Morris County Chamber: <https://www.morrischamber.org/coronavirus-news.html>

NJMEP: (For manufacturers and supply chain): <https://www.njmep.org/>

**Please let me know if you have any questions or issues regarding local, county, state or federal government concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Be safe and well!

**Best,  
Alan Zakin, Chairman  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee  
Morris ELC**