

Oklahoma Essential Business FAQs

Does my business qualify as an essential business under the Governor's Executive Order?

Major categories of essential businesses are listed below

- Health care (doctors, dentists, nurses, hospitals, pharmacies, medical research facilities, labs, etc.)
- Food and drink production and distribution (grocery stores, markets, carryout at or delivery from restaurants, liquor stores, etc.)
- Sanitation (laundromats, dry cleaners, household and business cleaning services and supply stores)
- Manufacturing
- Transportation (railroads, airports, public transit, gas stations, etc.)
- Financial services (banks, insurance providers, brokerage firms, and professional services required for compliance with legal and regulatory requirements)
- Warehouse and Wholesale Distribution of supplies and materials for essential businesses
- Maintenance and construction of infrastructure and new commercial and residential buildings
- Child care for employees providing essential services or working at an essential business
- Essential government operations
- Utilities
- Agriculture, Food & Forestry

A more [expansive list of essential businesses is provided in the proclamation](#).

The State strongly encourages, to the extent possible, all essential businesses to allow employees to work from home and to maintain social distancing in their day to day operations.

How are determinations made about which types of businesses are essential?

Determinations about which types of businesses are essential are made based on both the necessity of businesses for supporting life and safety as well as the public health risk certain activities pose, particularly those which require close in-person interaction. The Governor may update this guidance based on the advice of health officials as circumstances change.

My business is not defined as an essential business under this executive order. Can I remain open if precautions like increased hygiene and social distancing are taken?

Non-essential businesses can continue operations that can be conducted from employees' homes. They can also continue to engage in the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory and facilities and to ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions, as well as the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees being able to work from home, provided social distancing is maintained.

Do businesses and/or employees need formal certification or identification that they qualify as an essential business and/or are employed at an essential business?

No.

I am unclear whether my business qualifies as essential or non-essential. Can I receive a formal recommendation from the city as to whether I qualify?

Currently guidance is available on a general (industry) basis. We encourage all business owners to review the order in its entirety if they believe there is ambiguity about whether they qualify as essential or not.

Read the [Executive Order here](#) and the [expanded Memorandum here](#).

Are restaurants classified as essential?

Yes. Restaurants may remain open to provide take-out and delivery options only.

Is construction activity classified as essential?

Yes, public works, infrastructure (including industrial and commercial buildings), and housing construction are classified as essential. We strongly encourage construction businesses as well as independent contractors that support them to carry out their work in compliance with social distancing requirements and guidelines to the extent possible.

Are manufacturing facilities classified as essential?

Manufacturing operations, including those that supplies goods necessary for the operation of other essential businesses (for example medical equipment, transport equipment, telecommunications equipment, supplies necessary to maintain or build infrastructure, sanitation and cleaning supplies, food or beverages, etc.) are classified as essential.

Are transit operations such as railroads, airports, buses, and truckers classified as essential?

Yes, transit operators (Including railroads, airline and airport workers, and public transit organizations) are classified as essential. Additionally, maintenance providers (such as mechanics or bike repair shops) are also classified as essential, as are suppliers of parts needed to maintain the operations of transit providers. Truckers are also classified as essential.

Are hotels and motels classified as essential?

Yes. We recognize that individuals employed in essential businesses who are traveling (for example medical workers or infrastructure maintenance workers) and/or individuals who find their homes temporarily uninhabitable may need to secure shelter.

Are home repair and maintenance services classified as essential?

Yes, home repair services including plumbers, electricians, exterminators, lawn and landscape care, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and essential businesses are classified as essential.

Are communications providers (such as internet providers, businesses that enable internet access and availability, organizations that support distance learning, etc.) classified as essential?

Yes, businesses and organizations that facilitate and support internet access and

communications, including the ability to work and learn from home, are considered essential

Are liquor stores and other markets that sell liquor classified as essential?

Yes, businesses that distribute food or drink are classified as essential. We encourage the maintenance of social distancing to the extent possible in all cases.

Are medical marijuana dispensaries classified as essential?

Yes. We encourage the maintenance of social distancing to the extent possible in all cases.

Are child care providers classified as essential?

Yes. We recognize that many workers in essential industries need access to child care to continue to work. The order includes the following guidance for child care providers: Childcare should be carried out in stable groups, preferably with 10 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day); Children should not change from one group to another; If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group should be in a separate room. Groups should not mix with each other; and Childcare providers should remain solely with one group of children.

Are realtors, leasing agents, building inspectors, and movers classified as essential?

Yes, realtors, leasing agents, building/housing inspection services, movers, and other services necessary to help people find or maintain housing are classified as essential. We strongly encourage all of these services to practice social distancing to the extent possible and to limit unnecessary activities that can be deferred to a later date.

Are personal services, such as nail salons, hair salons, and tanning facilities classified as essential?

No, businesses that provide personal services are not classified as essential and should follow the Governor’s Executive Order at this time.

Are gyms or workout facilities classified as essential?

No, gyms and workout facilities are not classified as essential and should follow the Governor’s Executive Order to close at this time. However, individuals are encouraged to use parks and exercise outdoors while they practice social distancing.

I work at an essential business but don’t believe I am an essential employee. Do I have to work?

The state cannot compel any individual to go to work, nor can it make determinations for essential businesses about which employees are essential and non-essential for carrying out its work. Essential businesses can continue standard operations provided social distancing is maintained to the extent possible. Essential businesses are strongly encouraged to allow employees whose duties can be carried out from home to do so.

I own a business in an essential industry. Do I have to stay open?

The state cannot compel any business to remain open.

My business and/or my job has been impacted by the Coronavirus, where can I go to get help?

A list of resources for businesses and employees is available at <http://covidresources.ok.gov/>. The state, cities, local philanthropies, and faith-based organizations are actively working on additional support measures and will share more information as it becomes available.