

# Governor Proclamation Enforcement: Frequently Asked Questions

Source: Washington State Joint Information Center

- How do I figure out if my business is an “essential business” covered by the governor’s proclamation and the requirements?
  - You can review detailed guidance about essential and non-essential businesses at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/whats-open-and-closed/essential-business>.
  - If you need further guidance or want to request that your business be included as an essential business, submit the online form available at [coronavirus.wa.gov](https://coronavirus.wa.gov).
- Who do I contact to report a business is remaining open?
  - Some businesses are deemed essential and allowed to operate because they provide a good or service that is critical to the health and safety of Washingtonians. If you’re concerned that a **non**-essential business is open and not complying with the governor’s order, you can file a complaint the online form available at: <https://bit.ly/essential-business>
  - Enforcement decisions about **individuals** willfully violating the Stay Home order are made at the local level. State leaders have worked in close coordination with local law enforcement about educating people on the importance of social distancing and staying home. The public can contact their local law enforcement agency. People are urged to continue using common sense when determining if and when to contact law enforcement about group gatherings. Do not contact 911 to complain about possible violations of this order.
- What activities are allowed under the proclamation?
  - The governor’s [Stay Home, Stay Healthy order](#) requires everyone to stay home unless they are pursuing an essential activity such as shopping for groceries, picking up prescription medications or seeking emergency medical care. The order bans all social, spiritual and recreational gatherings and requires all non-essential businesses to close. The order details several [categories of essential businesses and workers](#) that can remain operational because they are critical to protecting the health and well-being of all Washingtonians.
- Is it a crime to violate the Governor’s proclamations?
  - Yes. Any person willfully violating the Governor’s emergency proclamation could be found guilty of a gross misdemeanor. RCW 43.06.220(5)
  - A violation of health department orders made for the prevention, suppression and control of dangerous contagious and infectious diseases, or for leaving isolation without the consent of the proper health officer, is a misdemeanor violation of RCW 70.05.120(4).

- Agency personnel will contact businesses to provide information and guidance about how to comply with the order. Voluntary compliance, motivated by a shared desire to keep one another safe and healthy, is the goal at all times. For businesses that continue to willfully and flagrantly violate the order, stricter enforcement actions will be pursued, in accordance with due process.
  
- Do I need documentation to be away from my home?
  - No. You do not need written permission, or certification, to travel or leave your home. The proclamation requires individuals to remain home except for essential purposes, but no documentation is required if you leave. Everyone is encouraged to comply with the orders to reduce the spread of the virus to our friends, family, and community.
  
- Where can I find the Governor's proclamations?
  - The Governor's proclamations may be found at <https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/proclamations>
  
- Would I still qualify for unemployment if I don't come into work because my boss is still open for business even though it's not an essential business?
  - People who became unemployed as a result of COVID and are otherwise eligible, including those choosing not to go to work because they feel unsafe, may have access to unemployment benefits if necessary as a last resort. Workers and employers are encouraged to seek all possible options, such as telework and alternative work assignments. All workers who believe they are eligible are encouraged to apply.
  
- Do the Governor's proclamations include individuals and businesses on tribal lands?
  - The Governor's proclamations are not enforceable on tribal lands; however, we do encourage everyone to follow the proclamations to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the state. We appreciate that many federally-recognized tribes support the governor's actions and are enforcing them on their reservations.
  
- Has the governor activated the National Guard to enforce this measure?
  - No. The National Guard is on hand to provide support for non-law enforcement activities and support and logistics but has not been activated for any enforcement activity.
  
- I have resources to contribute (volunteers, buildings, PPE, hand sanitizer, etc.). Who should I contact to contribute my resources to the efforts?
  - For information on how you can help, visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help>. You'll find information for how to donate bulk donations to fill the highest needs first.
  - To donate small quantities of items, or other items, contact your local [emergency management agency](#).