



“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order FAQ for Eastside Businesses

On March 23, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued an executive order directing all Washington residents and business owners to stay home, except for certain essential activities and work to provide essential business, government services or public infrastructure.

Under this “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order Washington residents and business owners are directed to stay home and limit all non-essential activities and interactions with others outside the home. This FAQ is intended to give a better idea of what is considered an essential business as we work to stop the spread of COVID-19.

For news updates and a wider list of business resources, [visit our website](#).

Q: Which sectors have been designated “essential” by the governor?

A: Broadly, the following sectors have been designated essential:

- Healthcare and Public Health, Emergency Services, Food and Agriculture, Energy, Water and Wastewater, Transportation and Logistics, communications and IT, other community-based government operations, critical manufacturing, hazardous materials, financial services, chemical and defense industrial base.
- Not all activities within these broad sectors have been deemed essential. Please follow [this link](#) for a more detailed list of specific permitted sectors and activities.

Q: Is there an exemption process for a non-listed essential activity?

A: Yes, to clarify or certify status, or to petition to be added to this list, please visit the Washington State Business Re-Entry Registration [website](#).

Q: Does an essential business need to register with the city or state to continue to operate?

A: No.

Q: Are restaurants and bars an essential function and able to operate?

A: Yes, however, restaurants and bars are prohibited from offering dine-in options, and are limited to curbside pick-up, delivery, take out, or drive thru services.

Q: Are construction projects allowed to continue?

A: It depends. Construction of housing, essential facilities (such as medical, transportation, or telecommunications infrastructure) is generally allowed to continue. The specific circumstances can be found in Washington State’s [detailed guidelines](#).

Q: Are retail operations allowed to operate?

A: Food retail establishments, big-box stores that sell groceries and essentials, and commercial retail stores, that supply essential sectors are still allowable. Please follow this [link](#) for a list of sectors.

Q: Are auto dealers an essential business and allowed to open?

A: No: Auto dealers should be practicing safe social distancing operations by directing most business online. Employees should have the ability and resources provided to them to continue working from home using technology.

Q: Are auto, motorcycle, bicycle and motorized wheelchair repair shops an essential business and allowed to operate?

A: Yes, transportation-related repair shops maintain safe and essential operations for residents and keep essential businesses going. Transportation repair shops include auto repair shops, bike shops, and other similar facilities.

Q: Are indoor construction, electrical, plumbing contractors an essential business and allowed to operate?

A: Yes: Hardware stores, plumbers, electricians and other service providers necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences and other essential businesses are considered essential by the order.

Q: Are insurance companies an essential business and allowed to open?

A: No: Insurance companies should be practicing safe social distancing operations by directing most business online. Employees should have the ability and resources provided to them to continue working from home using technology.

Q: Are real estate agents an essential business and allowed to operate?

A: No: Real estate agents should be practicing safe social distancing operations by directing most business online. Employees should have the ability and resources provided to them to continue working from home using technology.

Q: Are pet groomers an essential business and allowed to operate?

A: No: At this time pet grooming is not an essential function and should not be operating until further notice to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

Q: Are marijuana retailers an essential business and allowed to open?

A: Yes: Most marijuana retailers offer medicinal options for their customers, making the business essential. Delivery or online purchase is not an option.