

STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.



Oregon Office of Emergency Management COVID-19 Non-Health Related FAQ

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General

Please note, there is a [growing trend](#) to use the term **physical distancing**.

What’s the current status of personal protection equipment (PPE) in Oregon?

Oregon is working tirelessly to purchase its own PPE and has proactively requested supplies from the federal government.

These numbers change frequently. Check for updates by visiting the [Oregon Health Authority – COVID-19 webpage](#). Go to the top section titled “COVID-19 cases in Oregon” and click on the Daily Update.

Can homemade cloth face masks help prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Oregonians should remember that staying home and avoiding all non-essential contact, along with practicing physical distancing, basic hand hygiene and cough etiquette, continues to be the most important thing all of us can do to stay healthy and keep others healthy.

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Face masks *may slow the spread of COVID-19* if worn by individuals who are sick. However, for healthy persons, homemade masks are not known to be effective in *protecting the wearer against infection*. Cloth masks worn by a sick person, particularly one with respiratory symptoms such as coughing or sneezing, could help reduce the spread of the virus.

Check for updates by visiting the [Oregon Health Authority – COVID-19 webpage](#). Go to the section titled “OHA Guidance and Emergency Rules” and click on the Guidance on Use of Homemade Masks or Face Coverings by the Public to Prevent Spread of COVID-19.

How can I donate or volunteer?

Complete this [online form](#) if you’d like to donate services or resources for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), or use [this form to volunteer to assist](#).

Do I have to pump my own gas?

Gas retailers throughout Oregon can individually determine whether to allow self-service at their pumps through April 25, 2020. If the retailer requires customers to pump their own gas, there should be instructions posted on the dispensing equipment. Visit the [Oregon State Fire Marshal website](#) for more information.

Where can I get food assistance?

Oregon Food Bank: By phone at 503-505-7061, by email at gethelp@oregonfoodbank.org, or use their online [food finder website](#). They also are seeking volunteers to box and deliver food, if you are under the age of 60 and don’t face higher risks for COVID-19. Please visit their [volunteer webpage](#).

Partners for a Hunger-free Oregon: Offers resources and information to access [basic food needs](#), including locations where families can get meals for kids during the school closure.

211 Food Information: [Information and referrals to food resources](#) across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Offers food benefits to eligible, low-income individuals and families. Apply [here](#).

Where can I find meals for my kids while schools are closed?

[View a list of school districts](#) who are offering meal service to students.

Is there anyone who can help me with home delivery of food and home products?

Pantries and food assistance sites across the state remain open — with increased cleaning and changes in service to help minimize contact among groups of people. If you need assistance, send an email to gethelp@oregonfoodbank.org or call (503) 505-7061. A team of navigators is available between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

What precautions should I take while shopping?

The biggest risk comes from being exposed to a person with the virus, so take as few trips to the store as possible, avoid peak shopping hours, send only one person to the store, maintain six (6) feet of physical distance, and wear a mask if you are sick. Sanitize surfaces, like shopping cart or basket handles, with a disinfecting wipe before use. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer after handling food packages or cash and after touching card readers.

Can I get the coronavirus from food, food packaging, or food containers and preparation area?

Currently there is no evidence of food, food containers, or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19, according to the [Food and Drug Administration](#). Like other viruses, it is possible that the virus that causes COVID-19 can survive on surfaces or objects.

If you are concerned about contamination of food or food packaging, wash your hands after handling food packaging, after removing food from the packaging, before you prepare food for eating and before you eat. Consumers can follow CDC guidelines on frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces.

Is there financial assistance available for childcare?

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You may be eligible for [Employment Related Day Care](#). Contact the [Oregon Department of Human Services](#) by phone or online to see if you qualify.

Are childcare facilities staying open?

The decision to stay open is up to individual facilities if they can limit the number of children in a group to 10 and can keep those 10 children separate from any other children. Please visit the [Early Learning Division website](#) for more information.

Are there any guidelines for preparing to stay at home?

One of that state's top priorities is to ensure that every Oregonian is [2 Weeks Ready](#) in case of natural disaster or public health crisis. However, buying more than beyond a two-week's supply of necessities may cause more harm than good at this time.

Each of our individual actions make an impact on our community's ability to weather this crisis. This includes how we shop. Hoarding items such as sanitizers, toilet paper, food, and household cleaning products limits access to these important necessities for many Oregonians and especially vulnerable populations who can't choose, because of current circumstances, where and when they shop.

There is no food shortage and stores will restock. Over-buying food, health and cleaning supplies could mean that your elderly, sick neighbors, or essential personnel that serve your community go without life-saving necessities.

Do your part be prepared, but only purchase what you need.

What does it mean to flatten the curve?

"Flatten the curve" is an expression that describes a public health-based approach to reduce the spread of an infectious disease in a population over time, which helps prevent emergency rooms and hospitals from becoming overwhelmed by a surge in new cases at once. "Flattening the curve" may not reduce the total number of cases, but by spreading them out over a longer duration we can lower the case curve and allow the care system to better manage limited health resources and help those with the most severe illnesses.

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Where can I report price gouging?

Contact the Oregon Department of Justice's Consumer Hotline if you see merchants charging exorbitant prices for goods and supplies: 1-877-877-9392 or www.oregonconsumer.gov.

What if I suspect a child is being abused?

Please call the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline to report suspected child abuse or neglect at 1-855-503-(SAFE)7233. More resources are available at the [Oregon Child Welfare](http://OregonChildWelfare.org) website.

How can I cope with anxiety and fear while staying at home during the COVID-19 crisis?

Here are some helpful ideas:

- Make a daily schedule and include time for exercise, take a break from television and the news, read a book, play with the kids, or doing an activity you've been putting off.
- Write a real letter on paper or a postcard and mail it to someone.
- Learn a new recipe. Websites such as www.epicurious.com have great recipes that you can try.
- Learn a new magic trick or two. Visit YouTube for tutorials.
- Go for a walk in your neighborhood. Notice how many different trees are growing near your home, how many spring flowers are coming up.
- Learn a new card game or pull out that old Monopoly board.
- Above all, be kind, calm, and compassionate – with your family, your friends and with yourself.
- OHA has a handout with other useful tips for [Self and Community Care During Social and Physical Distancing](#).

Who can I call if I'm experiencing distress related to COVID-19?

Disaster Distress Helpline

800-985-5990

Text "TalkWithUs" to 66746

If your employer has an Employee Assistance Program, reach out to them. EAP programs are often included in medical insurance coverage. EAP programs provide professional counselors who can guide you over the phone or in office visits. If needed, they can refer you to a provider in your medical plan.

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National Suicide Prevention Hotline
800-273-8255 (English)
888-628-9454 (Spanish)

Veterans may contact the [Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs](#) or if you're experiencing an emergency, call the veterans crisis line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness

View this [online resource guide](#) for questions about stress management, working from home, feelings of isolation and loneliness.

What rehabilitation resources are available?

Get alcohol and drug rehabilitation help by doing any of the following:

- Call for Help 1-800-923-HELP (4357)
- Text "RecoveryNow" to 839863
- Visit <https://findtreatment.gov/>

How are nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult foster homes, intellectual or developmental disability group homes and provider-owned supported living sites affected?

The [Department of Human Services](#) (DHS) has restricted and limited entry in all licensed facilities including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult foster homes, intellectual or developmental disability group homes and provider-owned supported living sites. Facilities will be closed when residents or staff have symptoms or are being tested for COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 impacting blood donations?

The American Red Cross faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancelations during this coronavirus outbreak. Blood donation centers are taking every precaution to ensure donating is safe, including screening, sanitizing, and physical distancing.

How can I donate blood?

If you are out of or off work during the COVID-19 response, are healthy and have access to transportation, consider making a blood donation. Visit

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[RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS, or download the Red Cross Blood Donor app to make an appointment to donate blood. Scheduling an appointment helps the Red Cross manage the flow of donors and ensure proper physical distancing. In addition to still being safe, donating blood is also allowed under [Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives](#) order.

Are state prisons allowing visitors?

Effective March 13, 2020, all visiting is suspended at the 14 institutions across the state. The agency will review the suspension after a 30-day period. Visit the [Oregon Department of Corrections](#) for updates.

Have visiting hours changed at Oregon Youth Authority correctional facilities?

Visitation at all [Oregon Youth Authority](#) youth correctional facilities and youth transitional camps is suspended until further notice. This applies to all visitors and volunteers. Families wishing to do phone calls or Skype video visits with their youth should contact the youth's case coordinator or camp counselor.

Are state offices open for business?

Effective March 25, 2020, all executive branch state agencies are closed to the public until further notice. However, many offices will continue to offer services by phone or online during this time. Please contact the individual agency for more information.

How is Video Lottery affected?

Effective March 17, 2020, the [Oregon Lottery](#) disabled play on its statewide network of Video Lottery terminals until further notice. Terminals will remain in the field and Lottery staff will continue providing scheduled maintenance.

Transportation

Visit the [Oregon Department of Transportation](#) (ODOT) website for more information and answers to frequently asked questions.

Are Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices open?

Some DMV offices are open by appointment only. Visit [DMV2U.oregon.gov](https://dmv2u.oregon.gov) to learn more.

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What should I do if my driver's license, vehicle registration or trip permit is expiring?

The [DMV has partnered with Oregon law enforcement to exercise discretion](#) in their enforcement of driver licenses, vehicle registrations and trip permits [that expire](#) during the COVID-19 emergency.

Are there any trucking advisories in place?

As of March 16, 2020, a suspension is in place on certain regulations, including those relating to enforcement of size and weight permits, hours of service for trucking, and the following:

- Enforcement of motor carrier accounts suspended for failure to file mileage reports, pay fees, or bond timely.
- Enforcement of commercial vehicle registration and International Registration Plan (IRP) requirements.
- Assessment of any applicable late fees.

This suspension is in effect for a minimum of 90 days from the date of the order and up to 30 days past the end of the State of Emergency.

Has the upcoming REAL ID deadline changed?

The Governor requested that President Trump and the Department of Homeland Security extend the REAL ID deadline for one-year. This will help ensure Oregonians will not be adversely impacted when attempting to travel domestically.

Are DEQ vehicle inspection stations open?

As of March 17, 2020, all [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) vehicle inspection stations are closed until at least April 15.

Are state routes/roads closed and are there roadblocks?

Traffic is moving freely within Oregon and our border states. There are no roadblocks or restrictions of vehicle movement. Washington State is operating under a similar Executive Order from their Governor, so Oregonians should be aware of these provisions when traveling in Washington State.

Are rest areas open?

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Yes, generally. Some rest areas are connected to parks, which are currently closed to comply with the [Governor's Executive Order](#).

Law Enforcement

Will I be pulled over for driving on the highway?

Not for violation of the Governor's Executive Order, which specifically outlines efforts to avoid large gatherings, not restrict the movement of Oregonians. If, however, you are committing a traffic violation or crime that would be enforced independent of the order, you may be stopped, like any other day.

Are police arresting or ticketing people in public or in violation of the Governor's Executive Order?

People who violate the Governor's Order in an Emergency Declaration could be arrested or cited, which is a Class C Misdemeanor- the lowest level of criminal conduct designation. All Oregon law enforcement are united on the premise that police action is extremely undesirable, and we hope Oregonians comply with the Governor's Order. Citation or arrest would be an extreme last resort if a person failed to comply with the lawful direction of a police officer.

Should I call 911 if I see people congregating outside?

No. The level of this violation is not for reporting police, fire or medical emergencies through 911. People may choose to self-educate their fellow Oregonians or if a large gathering is noted, they may call their respective police agency's non-emergency number.

Are state courts continuing to hold trials, hearings and offering in-person services?

Chief Justice Martha L. Walters has ordered state court restrictions on trials, hearings, and in-person services until at least June 1, 2020. Visit the [Oregon Judicial Department website](#) to learn more.

Outdoor Activities

Is it okay to go boating (kayaking, canoeing, rafting, stand-up paddle boarding, sailing, drift boating, motor boating)?

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If the facility with public boating access is open, then it's okay to go boating if you remember to maintain physical distancing within the boat and minimize the number of occupants and stay close to home. All boating regulations are in effect. Visit the [Oregon State Marine Board website](#) to learn about boat ramp closures, do online transactions, or take an Internet [boating safety course](#).

Is it okay to go hiking?

It is okay to go hiking if the activity is limited to non-contact and you can maintain an appropriate physical distance of six feet and stay close to home. Oregon state parks are closed until at least May 8, 2020. Visit the [Oregon Parks and Recreation website](#) for more information.

Is overnight camping allowed during this time?

Wildlife areas and state park overnight camping is suspended from April 3 through May 8, 2020.

Are fisheries and wildlife areas open for day-use activities?

Most fishing and hunting seasons remain open to residents in Oregon if participants maintain physical distancing and other guidelines set forth in the Governor's Stay Home, Save Lives order.

While seasons are open, access to many areas are closed. State Parks are closed, national forests have closed established recreation areas and some counties and cities have closed access to boat ramps or other locations. Please check the access restrictions where you are headed before going.

Physical distancing helps stop the spread of COVID-19. **Maintaining a six-foot distance from others helps** [ODFW](#) and other agencies like the US Coast Guard, [Oregon Parks and Recreation Department](#), Oregon State Police, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association **keep recreation areas open**.

While all events are canceled (such as family fishing event or hunter education classes), lakes and ponds are still being stocked. All normal hunting and fishing regulations are in effect and people must do their part to maintain proper physical distancing. Check the [ODFW website](#) for the latest information.

What about federal recreation areas?

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Most National Forest System lands in Oregon temporarily closed to the public on March 26, 2020, including the [Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area](#). You can search the [U.S Forest Service](#) website for specific forest information.

The [Bureau of Land Management](#) has temporarily closed many of its developed recreation facilities in Oregon to help limit the spread of COVID-19 including all campgrounds, and some day use sites, and restrooms. Trash pickup and sanitation services on most of these recreation facilities has also been suspended.

Is it safe to congregate outside?

All non-essential social and recreational gatherings outside of a home are prohibited until further notice.

Is it okay for my kids to play at outdoor playground equipment areas, sport courts, skate parks or pools?

No. The Governor has ordered the immediate closure of all pools, skate parks, outdoor sports courts, and playground equipment areas until further notice.

What happens if my kids congregate outside without my permission, like at a skate park?

Officers will likely approach the youth and educate them on the Executive Order. Citations and arrest are extremely unlikely and reserved for only extreme circumstances.

Education

Visit the [Oregon Department of Education's website](#) for current information and answers to frequently asked questions.

How long are schools closed?

Governor Kate Brown expanded [Oregon's statewide school closure](#) for the remainder of the school year.

Does the closure apply to Education Service District (ESD) schools?

Yes, the closure applies to any schools that Education Service Districts (ESD) operates.

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What guidance is being given to Migrant Education programs regarding potential food insecurity, immigration and language access?

Schools are encouraged to organize with migrant education programs to arrange food transportation, so children do not go hungry during this time. Additional response steps can include Migrant Education directors completing phone calls to survey families informally and coordinating with local organizations.

What are the impacts for graduating seniors?

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released [Oregon's Graduation Pathways 2020](#) to help seniors graduate on time. This is the result of collaboration with educators, administrators, culturally specific community-based organizations, and the education community. This guidance recognizes that this closure is impacting less than 2 percent of our seniors' time spent learning from kindergarten to grade 12. It is important that we honor the dedication and accomplishments of the class of 2020.

Will school-based health centers or school social/wraparound services stay open?

School-based health centers or school social/wraparound services will stay open if they comply with Governor Brown's guidance.

Are there options for the continuity of school meal programs during school closures?

Yes. Governor Brown called for districts to meet this challenge and has charged ODE to help.

There are options available to continue meal service at school and non-school sites through the Summer Food Service Program or Summer Seamless Option. The Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs (ODE CNP) encourages sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to use Program flexibilities to help ensure that there is no lapse in food security during a closure.

How are Oregon colleges and universities responding to the outbreak?

Governor Brown is extending Oregon's physical closures for post-secondary education systems through the end of the current academic term and school year. She directed school districts, community colleges, and universities to

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complete the final weeks of the regular academic year by continuing distance learning and support to students. Stay informed about the status of colleges and universities by visiting the [Higher Education Coordinating Commission](#) website.

Businesses

Visit the [Oregon Employment Department](#) for current information and answers to frequently asked questions.

Are there any new ways for restaurants, bars and similar establishments to sell alcohol?

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) has relaxed some of the requirements relating to delivery of malt beverages, wine and cider by licensees who qualify for same day delivery. OLCC also now allows “curbside” delivery and simplifies the requirements regarding time and volume limits. Visit the [OLCC website](#) for more information.

Is it okay for my golf course restaurant to sell food and beverages?

Restaurants on golf courses can offer food to-go and allow patrons to take the food onto the fairway or greens and eat while they play golf however; physical distancing of six (6) feet is still required on the course.

Where can I find guidance on what’s considered paid sick leave, unemployment insurance, and paid family and medical leave?

Read the [COVID-19 related scenarios and benefits](#) quick guide for an outline on what’s considered paid sick leave, unemployment insurance, and paid family and medical leave.

What are the rules about providing sick leave to employees?

Oregon law requires employers to give sick time. Employees get at least 1 hour of protected sick time for every 30 hours of work. Sick time can be used for many reasons, including if an employees’ family member is sick, injured, experiencing mental illness, or needs to visit the doctor. Click here to [read more about Oregon sick leave](#).

Are there coronavirus safety posters I should display at my workplace?

- [Preventing germ spread](#)

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- [Preventing germ spread \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Symptoms of coronavirus](#)

What if I must lay people off or temporarily close my business because of issues related to COVID-19?

Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits may be available to those who are on a temporary layoff. These benefits occur for claimants whose employer stops operation for a short period of time, such as cleaning following a coronavirus exposure. In these cases, employees expect to be back to work in four weeks or less. Workers can get UI benefits, and do not need to seek work with other employers. They must be able to work, stay in contact with you as their employer, and be available to work when you call them back to the job.

Also, check with your insurance company or agent to see if your policy covers an epidemic or pandemic. Most business interruption policies cover business closures for events such as fire, a burst pipe, or a windstorm.

Are there any programs to help minimize my layoffs?

One option to consider is whether you may be able to use Oregon's [Work Share program](#). It helps employers prevent layoffs by reducing the schedules of workers, instead of laying them off, while benefits help to offset employees' lost wages.

What if I permanently close my business because of coronavirus?

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has [rapid response services](#) to plan for job transitions needed when a business closure or mass layoff occurs, including cases of natural and other disasters. Local Rapid Response teams coordinate with employer, worker representative, Trade Act and Labor.

Are there resources that can help keep my company in business?

Visit [Business Oregon](#) and the [Small Business Administration](#) to learn about financial resources that are available to your business.

What's the best way to clean my workplace?

To clean your home and workplace and reduce the spread of COVID-19, look at your cleaning products. If it says it kills coronavirus on the label, it is EPA-

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approved and okay to use. Visit this webpage for more [information about what areas to clean and disinfect](#).

Can I require an employee traveling back from an affected area to stay home?

Yes, employers can ask an employee returning from an affected area (or exposure to a person with the disease) to stay home. The incubation period for a coronavirus is typically 14 days. If someone develops the disease, they may be contagious for longer.

Any absence due to actual illness or an order by a public official declaring a public health emergency would trigger protected sick time. For employers covered by Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) or Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), a progression of the disease could result in a serious health condition that qualifies for protected leave (and a right to access to any other paid leave bank).

What should I do if my employee refuses to handle merchandise that came from China?

Employers have a general duty to provide a place of employment free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. Employees also have the protected right to raise good faith concerns about the health and safety of the workplace (even if the employee is wrong on the merits). A calm conversation about actual risks, supplemented with trusted material from sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how viruses are transmitted may go a long way to alleviating concerns.

Is it legal for my business to make and distribute hand sanitizer?

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issued a temporary policy for preparation of certain alcohol-based hand sanitizer products during the public health emergency (COVID-19). This guidance is immediately in effect and outlines that the agency does not intend to act against manufacturing firms that prepare alcohol-based hand sanitizers for consumer use and for use as health care personnel hand rubs during this ongoing public health emergency as described in the guidance. Visit the [FDA website](#) for more information.

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How can big chain grocery stores help keep employees and customers safe?

Grocery stores may want to consider instituting the sale of ready-packed essential kits to limit exposure for workers and customers. Stores could offer a variety of pre-made kit options that include essentials and make them available for pick up or drive through.

Can my business donate resources to help with the COVID-19 response?

Complete this [online form](#) if you'd like to donate services or resources.

Employees

Visit the [Oregon Employment Department](#) for current information and answers to frequently asked questions.

I am trying to contact the Employment Department about an unemployment claim, but I am having trouble reaching them by phone. What should I do?

You can email questions to OED_UI_Info@oregon.gov

Do I need to pay my income taxes?

State and federal deadlines have been extended. All state taxes are now due on July 15, 2020. Learn more from the [Oregon Department of Revenue](#).

Can I get SNAP benefits if I lost my job or had my hours cut?

Yes, you are encouraged to [apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) benefits](#) online.

How will I get my share of the federal Paycheck Protection Program money?

[Paycheck Protection Program](#) money is distributed by your employer. This federal loan program helps small businesses keep workers on payroll by providing up to \$10 million for payroll and certain other expenses.

Where can I file a complaint about an employer?

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Contact the [Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Association](#) (OSHA) for any potential violation of existing Oregon OSHA rules or directives issued by Governor Kate Brown.

If my business is closed, can I still go to work if required by my employer? Will I be arrested?

While the Executive Order prohibits the public from congregating at a closed business, employers may still have work to do on site. If employees are not conducting business that is prohibited by the Executive Order, and maintaining physical distancing, it is okay to still be at the worksite. No “passes” or paperwork is required.

Do I need documentation from my employer deeming me essential?

No. The Governor’s Executive Order closes certain businesses, outlined in section (2) of the Executive Order. These businesses reflect operations that would make close contact difficult or impossible to avoid. Officers are not asking or looking for any type of special paperwork from your employer.

Do I need a special placard on my car, when going to work or if I drive for work?

No. There is no special documentation or placards for people going to work or permitted activities.

What can I do if my workplace temporarily closes because of coronavirus?

Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits may be available to those who are on a temporary layoff. These benefits occur for claimants whose employer stops operation for a short period of time, such as cleaning following a coronavirus exposure. In these cases, employees expect to be back to work in four weeks or less. Workers can get UI benefits, and do not need to seek work with other employers. They must be able to work, stay in contact with you as their employer, and be available to work when called back.

Do I have to look for other work if my employer temporarily closes because of the coronavirus?

If your employer expects the closure to be four weeks or less, you do not actively have to look for another job to receive benefits. To get benefits, you must:

- Be able to work;
- Stay in contact with your employer; and

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- Be available to work when your employer calls you back to work.

If I am forced to remain in my home, either because I am sick or am under quarantine, will I be eligible for unemployment benefits?

If you are sick for more than half the week or under quarantine, you would not be able and available to work. This is part of the requirements for UI eligibility. The Oregon Employment Department is working with partner agencies nationwide and the U.S. Department of Labor to seek benefit options for those missing work while quarantined.

What if my employer is paying me while they are closed?

Generally, you will not be eligible for benefits if your employer is paying you to remain away from the site or as stand-by pay.

Will I be eligible for unemployment benefits if my employer remains open, but I don't want to come to work because of the risk of exposure to the coronavirus?

In this case, unemployment benefits would generally not be an option, because you must be willing to work and available for work you usually do. You can file a claim, and the Employment Department will gather information from you and your employer to see if benefits would apply.

What if I am allowed to work from home for my job to reduce risk of getting coronavirus, and I don't want to work offsite?

Generally, you will not be eligible for unemployment benefits. You can file an [initial claim](#) to determine the possibility of receiving benefits.

What if I can take vacation or other leave pay while my employer is closed?

If you are getting vacation or other leave pay while your employer is closed, you generally are not able to also receive unemployment insurance benefits.

Can I take sick leave if I, or someone in my family, has COVID-19 coronavirus?

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries issues guidance related to Oregon's [sick time](#) and other leave time laws.

What if I have coronavirus, and I got it at my workplace?

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Contact the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for information on filing a [workers' compensation claim](#) related to coronavirus. They can also be contacted at 800-452-0288 or workcomp.questions@oregon.gov.

Will I get unemployment benefits if I become seriously ill with coronavirus and I must quit my job?

You will generally not be eligible for unemployment benefits if you quit your job. You can still file an [initial claim](#) to find out if you can receive benefits.

What if my employer goes out of business as a result of coronavirus?

Generally, you will be eligible for unemployment benefits. To find out if you are eligible, file an [initial claim](#). We will gather information from you and your employer about your circumstances to determine your eligibility.

Are any benefits available if I'm out of work due to the coronavirus and I'm self-employed?

Self-employed individuals generally do not pay Unemployment Insurance taxes and are not eligible for benefits. You can still file [an application](#) for a benefits claim.

What if I am unemployed and I am sick or quarantined with coronavirus?

If you are sick due to the coronavirus, you are likely not able and available to work, which would mean you cannot receive unemployment insurance benefits. Being able to work means that you are physically and mentally able to do the work you are looking for or usually do, unless:

- You were sick or injured for less than half of the week; or
- You have a long-term condition preventing you from working, but you can still do some work.

If you had an opportunity to work, but did not because you were sick, you likely cannot receive unemployment insurance benefits for that week but may be eligible for benefits for other weeks.

How can I meet my welcome process and job seeker registration or in-person meeting requirements if I am sick with coronavirus?

Please call your [WorkSource Oregon center](#) to ask about alternative options for completing your appointments.

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Can I use Oregon Family Leave (OFLA) to care for my kids during the coronavirus school closures ordered by Governor Kate Brown?

Oregonians can use Oregon Family Leave to take protected time off to care for their children during official school closures to limit the spread of coronavirus. This leave is not paid unless employees use available paid time off, they have, but it is protected. People who work for an employer that has at least 25 employees are eligible for OFLA.

Will my employer tell me if someone I work with comes down with coronavirus?

Employers have a duty to provide a place of employment, free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. That said, privacy laws will prevent your employer from sharing any specific medical information of another employee.

Will my health insurance cover COVID-19 testing?

The state has reached an agreement with several health insurance companies to waive co-payments, co-insurance, and deductibles for their customers who need COVID-19 testing. Visit the [Department of Consumer and Business Services webpage](#) for more information.

If you do not have health insurance, you should apply for OHP coverage, which fully covers the cost of getting tested for COVID-19 if they need it. [Sign up here.](#)

If you don't want to sign up for OHP, we encourage you to see a clinician through your county health clinic or through a federally qualified health center (FQHC). You can find a list [of FQHCs in Oregon here.](#)

State Response

What has Gov. Brown ordered to help manage the pace of the pandemic in Oregon?

Gov. Brown issued a [Declaration of Emergency](#) which expanded the authority of Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to devote all available state resources to contain the spread of COVID-19

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in Oregon. Gov. Brown continues to oversee the state's actions, issuing [executive orders](#) focused on controlling the spread of the coronavirus, promoting public health measures, and protecting vulnerable populations.

On March 23, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-12, effective immediately until further notice, telling Oregonians to stay home except for essential needs. This is a statewide order. Failure to comply with the order will be considered an immediate danger to public health. Here's a list of what is and what is not allowed:

Allowed (must keep six feet from others)

- Hospitals and health care
- Grocery stores
- Banks and Credit Unions
- Pharmacies
- Take-out/delivery from restaurants and bars
- Pet stores
- Gas stations
- Certain retail stores
- Outdoor activities like walking your dog, jogging, or biking in your neighborhood
- Childcare facilities and babysitters (only if abiding by new rules)

Not Allowed

- Social gatherings (parties, celebrations) with people from outside of your household
- Dine-in restaurants and bars
- Nightclubs and concerts
- Shopping at outdoor or indoor malls and retail complexes
- Fitness: Gyms, sports and fitness centers, health clubs, and exercise studios, dance and yoga studios
- Grooming: Hair salons, barbershops, nail salons, day spas and massage services, non-medical wellness spas, cosmetic stores, tattoo parlors
- Entertainment: Theaters, amusement parks, arcades, bowling alleys, music concerts, sporting events, museums, skating rinks
- Outdoors: State parks, playgrounds, campgrounds, pools, skate parks, festivals

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What does a state “Declaration of Emergency” mean?

A state Declaration of Emergency establishes directions to, and expectations of state agencies to use available resources to assist local communities and alleviate disaster conditions.

The Governor’s declaration on coronavirus also grants broad authority to the State Public Health Director, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to take immediate action and devote all available state resources towards containing the coronavirus in Oregon.

Are we under martial law?

No. There are no curfews and a person’s movements are not restricted under the Governor’s Executive Order. While details are offered in the order relating to physical distancing, specific business closures and non-essential social gatherings- Oregonian’s movements are generally unrestricted.

Are public investments being impacted by COVID-related market disruptions?

The Oregon Short Term Fund, which is used by the state and local governments to keep operating funds safe, is not invested in the stock market.

Separately, the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund (OPERF) is diversified across multiple asset classes. Strategies are based on the long-term financial horizon – not a single episode or economic cycle - and investment decisions are made to stand over the long haul, in both up and down markets. Treasury has taken deliberate steps over the past several years to make OPERF more resilient in anticipation of changing environments, including reducing and rebalancing risk, moving to lower cost index funds, and increasing corporate governance activities to ensure that our investment practices pursue strategies that produce strong, sustainable long-term results. This does not mean OPERF is immune to market volatility. Instead, it means the portfolio is better positioned to weather all types of economic and financial market conditions.

Are state offices open for business?

Effective March 25, 2020, all executive branch **state agencies** are closed to the public until further notice. However, many offices will continue to offer services by phone or online during this time. Please contact the individual agency for more information.

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State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)

What is the ECC and how is it overseeing the Oregon COVID response?

The ECC is the state's unified emergency command center. The center has representatives from all major state agencies and is integrated with the Oregon Health Authority's public health response efforts, and the Office of the Governor. The ECC is focused on assisting local government response by working with county/tribal partners to ensure there is no disruption to critical services in Oregon. The following state agencies are represented in the ECC:

1. Department of Corrections
2. Office of Emergency Management
3. Department of Education
4. Department of Environmental Quality
5. Department of Human Services
6. Department of Justice
7. Department of State Police
8. Department of Transportation
9. Judicial Department
10. Business Oregon
11. Department of Administrative Services
12. Oregon Health Authority
13. Oregon Military Department/Oregon National Guard
14. Oregon Tourism Commission
15. Public Utility Commission
16. Secretary of State
17. Department of Agriculture
18. Department of Energy
19. State Fire Marshal
20. Department of Forestry
21. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Where is the ECC located and what are the hours of operation?

The ECC operates out of the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem. The center currently operates on an 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. basis with duty officer coverage 24/7. These hours will be expanded as needed.

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