

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH  
EMERGENCY HUNKER DOWN ORDER  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Why is the Borough issuing an emergency order to hunker down?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm our health system, endangering the lives and wellbeing of Borough residents. We can take steps to slow and hopefully contain the threat, but those steps require immediate and coordinated community action.

**How long is the order in effect?**

The order is in place from Sunday, March 22nd at 10PM to Tuesday, March 31st at 11:59PM.

**Can I go outside for a walk, ski, or bike ride or to walk my dog?**

Yes. Practice social distancing of six feet or more with anyone outside your household, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before and after, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

**Where does this apply?**

This applies to the entire Northwest Arctic Borough including Kotzebue, Red Dog, and the villages.

**How is this enforced?**

Since the Borough does not have a police force, enforcement must be done by everyone in the region.

**What businesses will remain open?**

- Healthcare operations and first responders
- Businesses providing critical infrastructure including public works and housing construction, airport operations, roads, and trucking and shipping
- Critical city government services including police stations, fire stations, hospitals/clinics and healthcare operations, garbage, and utilities
- Gas stations and auto-repair and supply stores
- Pharmacies
- Grocery stores, convenience stores, food banks, take-out and delivery restaurants, marijuana and alcohol distribution stores
- Hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, and those who provide services to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences
- Childcare facilities and home-based care for seniors, adults and children
- Hotels, residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults and children
- Banks and related financial institutions
- Laundromats and laundry services

For a complete list of businesses that may remain open please see Emergency Order EO-02.

**What if I think my business should be considered a critical business, but it's not on the list?**

Contact the Borough Incident Command Team to request a designation from the Mayor's office.

**What are some examples of businesses that will temporarily close?**

Frequently Asked Questions:

*Updated March 25, 2020*

- Boys & Girls Clubs and any non-essential business that involve close contact.

**What businesses already closed as a result of EO-01?**

- Gyms or indoor recreation centers

**What about physical therapy, chiropractic care, and massage therapy?**

These businesses may continue with urgent, health-care equivalent appointments only. All other appointments must be canceled or postponed.

**What shouldn't I do?**

- Don't physically congregate in group activities with others.
- Don't invite friends or family over to your home to visit.
- Don't eat or drink in restaurants.

**Can I exercise?**

Yes. You can engage in many activities outdoors. Permissible activities include:

- Running alone, with household members, or with others at a distance
- Riding your bike alone, with household members, or with others at a distance
- Walking or hiking alone, with household members, or with others at a distance
- Stretching
- Use of a hot tub or steam house

**What if I live/work in a different city that is not under stay-at-home?**

Travel to and from the Northwest Arctic Borough is allowed for purposes of performing essential life functions. If you work outside of the Borough in an area that is not under this order please practice social distancing of six feet or more, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and not shake hands while at work. Comply with this order while in the Borough.

**Can I use a taxi?**

Yes, but only for essential travel. Practice social distancing of six feet or more, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before and after rides, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

**Can I leave home to care for my elderly or disabled parents or friends who require assistance to care for themselves?**

Yes. Be sure to protect them and yourself and practice social distancing of six feet or more when possible, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before and after rides, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

**Can I visit loved ones in the hospital, long term care home, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility?**

Frequently Asked Questions:

*Updated March 25, 2020*

It is strongly recommended that you do not go to a hospital unless you or a dependent is seeking emergency medical attention. Please use alternative ways to communicate with loved ones at residential care facilities such as calling, texting, and video calling. Residents at these locations are the most vulnerable. Contact the facility you would like to visit for further information.

**Can I leave home to visit friends or family members if there is no urgent need?**

No. We need to minimize contact with others in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**I am homeless. How can I comply with the order?**

Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Section, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation).

**I don't have a washer/dryer in my home. Can I leave to do laundry?**

Yes. You can go to a laundry service provider.

**Do I have to report to jury duty?**

The courts are under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska. Please call the number on your jury service form for further instructions. If you must go practice social distancing of six feet or more when possible, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

**Can my family go camping during the order?**

Yes. If you go practice social distancing of six feet or more when possible, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands. Be sure to bring medical supplies and return home and seek medical care if you feel sick.

**Can I fish or hunt?**

Yes. Maintain social distance of at least six feet, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

**What should I do if my employer requires me to go to work?**

Many private businesses are not permitted to continue operating under this order. Critical businesses as defined in this order are allowed and encouraged to continue operating. If your employer is not a critical business, you should not be asked to go to work. You will not be penalized for reporting to work.

**Does the order prevent people over the age of 65 from working?**

No, employees over the age of 65 are not prohibited from working if they are performing essential activities. However, people in high-risk categories for COVID-19 are encouraged to stay in their residence to the extent possible.

**I operate a store that sells food, alcohol, marijuana products, etc. Can I stay open?**

Frequently Asked Questions:

*Updated March 25, 2020*

Yes.

**I own a store. Can I go to my store to pick up my mail?**

Yes, if this is essential to allow you to continue to work from home.

**My business sells a few items that can be used by people working from home. Can I still operate?**

A business that only tangentially offers products and/or services that support essential activities or businesses cannot continue to operate.

**Can financial operations that cannot be done remotely continue at the office?**

Yes. Banks, mortgage companies, insurance companies, and related financial institutions can still operate while this order is in effect.

**Can plumbing, electrical, and HVAC services remain open?**

Yes. They may remain open to provide services.

**Can rental car agencies and vehicle dealerships operate?**

Rental car agencies and dealerships can operate to support essential businesses.

**Can a housekeeper keep working and am I allowed to hire one?**

No. However, if a housekeeper is required for the continued health and safety of the residence they may continue working.

**Can cleaning services continue working?**

Yes. They may be hired by essential businesses only.

**I own a business. What should I do?**

If you do not own an essential business you must close your premises; you may work remotely.

**I am a taxi driver. Can I continue working?**

Yes.

**Are cannabis stores allowed to continue operations?**

Yes.

**A building is under construction. Can construction continue?**

Yes. Any construction relating to housing, health care or essential businesses may continue.

**Can construction of a sewer or water line continue?**

Yes, this is critical infrastructure. Practice social distancing of at least six feet from any person outside their household whenever possible, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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**Can babysitters keep working? Am I allowed to hire one?**

Yes, in-home childcare is allowed to continue.

**I work or run a mail delivery service. Can I stay open?**

Yes. Practice social distancing of at least six feet from any person whenever possible, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.

**Can food delivery continue?**

Yes. Here is some additional guidance to food delivery and take-out operations.

- All workers must practice social distancing of at least six feet from any person whenever possible, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water between each delivery, use hand sanitizer, and do not shake hands.
- Containers and surfaces used in delivery need to be wiped down with disinfectant between each delivery
- Delivery must be conducted without person-to-person contact. Maintain distance of six feet or more.
- All prepared food items should be delivered in sealed and stapled bags or similar containers. Drinks should be delivered in unopened bottles or cartons or cups with secure lids.
- Products should be placed in a sanitized bin in the delivery vehicle
- Payment for delivery should be done virtually to the greatest extent possible. If the use of cash is unavoidable, the exchange of cash should be done while maintaining social distance of six feet between individuals.

**Will the grocery stores stay open and stocked?**

- Yes, the airports are operating a regular schedule. Grocery stores will be regularly stocked. There is no need to buy more than you need, and doing so might temporarily deprive your neighbor and force them to make additional trips outside the home.

**Some grocery stores now have seniors-only hours: What should I do if I can't or don't want to leave my house to get groceries?**

Please contact family, friends and others who you know can provide support. They are permitted to pick things up for you.

**What should I do if I'm sick and need to go to the hospital or a medical provider?**

Call ahead to your medical provider to determine if you should seek in-person medical attention. If possible walk or drive yourself to the health care to avoid exposing others.

**What if I am scheduled for a regular medical check-up or if I need non-emergency medical services?**

If you are feeling sick please call the Maniilaq Hot Line at **1-833-442-7015** for medical advice. Do not go to the emergency room unless you are having an actual medical emergency.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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**Can I pick up my prescriptions?**

Yes. Call the Maniilaq Hot Line at **1-833-442-7015** for medical advice.

**Can I still go to my appointments?**

Yes, if your provider decides to continue to offer in-person appointments, you may leave home to take care of your mental health. Do practice social distancing of six feet or more, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water as frequently as possible, use hand sanitizer, and not shake hands. Some mental health professionals are offering sessions through telemedicine to keep everyone safer, which may be another option.

**Who do I contact if I have questions?**

Contact the Borough's Incident Command Team at [covid19@nwabor.org](mailto:covid19@nwabor.org) or call (907) 442-2500. If you are sick or have personal health concerns please call the Maniilaq Hot Line at **1-833-442-7015** for medical advice.