



## COVID-19 Guidance – Tourist Accommodations

On April 23, 2020, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 04.23.20.02, “Reviving a Healthy Georgia.” The Order requires all businesses to implement measures to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19. The Office of the Governor will continue to issue guidance on the scope of the Order as needed through communication media, including social media.

### Take Measures to Ensure Your Facility Mitigates the Spread of COVID-19 Among Employees and Guests.

In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order, each Tourist Accommodation in Georgia must implement the measures applicable to non-critical infrastructure businesses to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce and the public it serves. Also, if the Tourist Accommodation’s property includes any of the facilities for which the Order includes additional requirements, the Tourist Accommodation must also comply with the applicable sections of the Order as to those facilities. These facilities may include:

1. Restaurants providing dine-in service, *including continental breakfast operations and bed and breakfast inns* as defined in Tourist Accommodation Regulation 511-6-2-.03(b) and (d), must comply with Section IV, “Restaurants and Dining Services.”
2. Gyms and fitness centers must comply with the subsection of the Order that begins on page 14, under Section V, “Industry, Commerce, Organizations and Non-Profits.”
3. Estheticians as defined in Code section 43-10-1(8), hair designers as defined in Code section 43-10-1(9), tanning facilities as defined in Code section 31-38-1(6) and massage therapy pursuant to Code section 43-24A-8 must comply with the subsection of the Order that begins on page 15, under Section V, “Industry, Commerce, Organizations and Non-Profits.”
4. Public swimming pools and operators of amusement rides as defined in Code section 25-15-51 are closed under this Order.
5. Live performance venues and bars as defined in Code section 3-1-2(2.1) are closed under the Order.

### Mitigation Measures for Employees

- Screen and evaluate workers who exhibit signs of illness, such as a fever over 100.4°F, cough, or shortness of breath. *While it is strongly recommended that each facility have an infrared thermometer on hand to screen employees, it is not required. Employees may screen themselves prior to arrival for work using thermometers they have at home.*
- Require workers who exhibit signs of illness to not report to work or to seek medical attention. *An employee with known or suspected COVID-19 must follow CDC guidelines to self-isolate for at least for at least ten days after symptom onset and end isolation only after symptoms have shown progressive improvement and the employee has been fever-free for three consecutive days without medication before returning to work.*

- Require hand washing or sanitation by workers at appropriate places within the business location. *Tourist Accommodation Regulation 511-6-2-.06(2) requires employees to “thoroughly wash their hands and the exposed portions of their arms with soap and warm water before starting work, during work as often as necessary to keep them clean and after smoking, eating, drinking or using the toilet.” Employees are further required to keep their fingernails clean and to “maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and conform to other good hygienic practices.”*
- Prohibit gatherings of workers during working hours. *No more than ten workers may be present at a single location if six feet of distance cannot be maintained between each worker. However, Tourist Accommodations are strongly encouraged to ensure that workers maintain social distancing even in groups of less than ten people.*
- Permit workers to take breaks and meals outside, in their office or personal workspace, or in such other areas where Social Distancing is attainable.
- Implement teleworking for all possible workers.
- Implement staggered shifts for all possible workers.
- Deliver all intangible services remotely whenever possible.
- Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment (*such as pens, pencils, check holders, etc.*).
- Prohibit handshaking and any unnecessary person-to-person contact in the workplace.
- For retailer and service providers, provide for alternative points of sale outside of buildings, including curbside pick-up or delivery of products and/or services if an alternate point of sale is permitted under Georgia law.
- Open sales registers must be at least six feet apart.
- Point of sale equipment should be frequently cleaned and sanitized. *Registers and point of sale machines should be cleaned and sanitized between uses by different employees.*
- If practicable, provide personal protective equipment as available and appropriate to the function and location of the worker within the business location. *Employees should wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth as appropriate. Instructions for making face coverings can be found on the CDC’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>.*
- If practicable, provide disinfectant and sanitation products for workers to clean their workspace, equipment, and tools.
- If practicable, increase physical space between workers’ worksites to at least six feet. *Where possible, stagger workstations to avoid employees standing next to each other. Where six*

*feet of separation is not possible, consider spacing options that include other mitigation efforts with increased frequency of cleaning and sanitizing surfaces.*

## Mitigation Measures for Guests and Patrons

- If a retail business, post a sign on the storefront stating that individuals that who have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 shall not enter the facility. *According to current CDC guidance, symptoms of COVID-19 include shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or at least two of these symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Contact your local public health department if you have a guest who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.*
- Enhance sanitation of the workplace as appropriate. *A list of approved disinfectants from the Environmental Protection Agency that are shown to be effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2> . An alternative disinfectant can be used: 1/3 cup of unscented bleach added to 1 gallon of water. Do not mix bleach with other cleaning and disinfection products together because this can cause fumes that are very dangerous to breathe in.*
- Disinfect common surfaces regularly. *Clean and disinfect common restrooms regularly, check restrooms based on the frequency of use, and ensure adequate supply of soap and paper towels is available. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in guestrooms. Do not vigorously shake linen during changing to prevent the virus from dispersing into the air, and launder linen as directed by manufacturer instructions. General CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>.*
- Hold all meetings and conferences virtually, whenever possible. *Follow CDC guidance on mass gatherings such as conferences, meetings or large events at any facility space for the duration of the Public Health Emergency.*
- Place notices that encourage hand hygiene at the entrance to the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen. *Post signs that encourage [washing hands frequently with warm soapy water](#) for at least 20 seconds at entrances, restrooms and in other visible areas. Provide hand sanitizer for use by guests and patrons, including contactless hand sanitizing stations when available.*
- Enforce Social Distancing of non-cohabitating persons while present on the Tourist Accommodation's leased or owned property. *Ensure patrons are seated at least six feet apart at any waiting area or lobby and that chairs in the area are at least six feet away from each other. Do not allow patrons to congregate in lobby or waiting areas. Design a process to ensure patrons have 6 feet of separation while waiting to be checked in or out. Valet parking should include floor markings, signs, or call service to help maintain social distancing.*
- Increase physical space between workers and patrons.

- Suspend the use of Personal Identification Number (“PIN”) pads, PIN entry devices, electronic signature capture, and any other credit card receipt signature requirements to the extent such suspension is permitted by agreements with credit card companies and credit agencies. *Encourage guests to use online and express check out services.*

## Recommendations for Your Building Water System

There are many public health considerations, not just COVID-19 related, when reopening hotel building and associated facilities that have been closed for extended periods. Use CDC’s Guidance for Building Water Systems to ensure the [safety of your building water system](#) . The guide will help operators implement mitigation measures against contaminants such as *Legionella*. Some of the recommendations include:

- Refresh your plumbing by flushing fixtures to bring in fresh water to help prevent harmful organisms from growing.
- Inspect mechanical equipment such as cooling towers, boilers, pumps, backflow preventers, etc., and determine if there are any issues regarding their function.
- Monitor water parameters, such as temperature and disinfectant.
- Review Prevention with Water Management Plans at <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/index.html>.
- Review Guidance for Building Water Systems at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>.

## Resources

State of Georgia Executive Order 04.23.20.02, Reviving a Healthy Georgia,  
<https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations: Interim Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>.

Disinfect and Clean: Interim Recommendations for US Households with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>.

What every American and community can do know to reduce the spread of coronavirus,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>.

Building Water Quality and Coronavirus: Flushing Guidance for Periods of Low or No Use, Environmental Science Policy and Research Institute,  
[https://esprininstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FINAL\\_Coronavirus-Building-Flushing-Guidance-20200403-rev-1.pdf](https://esprininstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FINAL_Coronavirus-Building-Flushing-Guidance-20200403-rev-1.pdf).

Cleaning and Disinfecting for Reopening,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>.

Guidance for Building Water Systems,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>.