

COVID-19 Executive Orders Affecting Business, Labor, and Housing

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Notice to Readers

This report provides brief summaries of the governor's COVID-19 executive orders concerning business, labor, and housing. The report includes all related executive orders since the governor's March 10, 2020, [declaration](#) of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, through April 15, 2020.

Each summary indicates the Executive Order (EO) number and enactment date. Not all provisions of the orders are included. The orders are grouped by category for ease of reference.

Three additional reports summarize the governor's COVID-19 executive orders concerning (1) education and child care, (2) health and human services, and (3) state and local government and elections. All four reports are available on OLR's website: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/>. The reports will be updated promptly as the governor issues new related orders.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of the orders, and related state agency actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, from the governor's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Emergency-Orders-issued-by-the-Governor-and-State-Agencies>.

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Business Closures and Restrictions

Essential and Non-Essential Businesses

EO 7X:

- Generally requires, through May 20, (1) all businesses and nonprofits to employ work from home or telecommuting procedures to the maximum extent safely possible and (2) non-essential businesses and nonprofits to reduce their in-person workforce by 100%
- Allows non-essential (1) retailers to be staffed onsite if they offer only remote ordering and delivery or curbside pick-up and (2) businesses and nonprofits to allow staff and third parties onsite to the minimum extent necessary to provide security, maintenance, mail and package receipt, and other services the Department of Economic Community Development (DECD) deems necessary
- Requires DECD to determine which businesses are essential and allows businesses to request to be deemed essential
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7H](#), § 1, Mar. 20, 2020; [EO 7J](#), § 1, Mar. 22, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; [DECD Business Exemptions Guidance](#), Mar. 22, 2020)

Gym, Recreation Facility, and Movie Theater Operations

EO 7X:

- Prohibits gyms; sports, fitness, and recreation facilities; and movie theaters from operating until May 20
- Extends a previous order's duration ([EO 7D](#), § 4, Mar. 16, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)

Hairdressers, Tattoo or Piercing Parlors, and Related Businesses

EO 7G:

- Prohibits barbers, hairdressers, cosmeticians, nail technicians, electrologists, estheticians, eyelash technicians, and tattoo and piercing providers from operating in public settings ([EO 7G](#), § 4, Mar. 19, 2020)

Large Indoor Malls

EO 7X:

- Closes specified large shopping malls, including indoor common areas and the stores, pharmacies, restaurants, and other establishments in them without their own external entrance through May 20

- Allows essential mall-based businesses to remain open if they use only their own external entrances and exits
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7F](#), § 1, Mar. 18, 2020; [EO 7H](#), § 1, Mar. 20, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)

Non-Essential Lodging Prohibition

EO 7T:

- Generally prohibits non-essential lodging in hotels, motels, short-term rentals, and other similar businesses, except for certain places rented for more than 31 days
- Allows these businesses to provide lodging only to (1) health care workers, first responders, and other specified workers in certain businesses; (2) vulnerable populations; (3) certain Connecticut residents (e.g., those who are self-isolating); and (4) those receiving specialized medical care or with extenuating circumstances ([EO 7T](#), § 1, Apr. 2, 2020)

OTB Facility Operations

EO 7X:

- Closes Off-Track Betting (OTB) facilities through May 20
- Extends a previous order's duration ([EO 7D](#), § 3, Mar. 16, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)

Places of Public Amusement

EO 7X:

- Closes indoor and outdoor places of public amusement (e.g., amusement parks, aquariums, arcades, bowling alleys) through May 20
- Excludes public parks and open recreation areas
- Extends a previous order's duration ([EO 7F](#), § 2, Mar. 18, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)

Retail Operations

EO 7X:

- Requires, through May 20, retail establishments that are allowed to remain open to (1) take appropriate and reasonable actions to ensure customers maintain six feet of distance between one another (including when in line to enter) and (2) if practicable, use touchless payment options

- Requires these establishments to take additional protective measures developed by DECD in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), which are mandatory statewide and supersede and preempt any current or future municipal order
- Makes firearms transactions appointment-only
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7N](#), § 3, Mar. 26, 2020; [EO 7S](#), § 1, Apr. 1, 2020; [DECD Implementation Order](#), Apr. 1, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)

Safe Workplaces

- Requires each workplace in the state to take additional protective measures to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19
- Requires the DECD commissioner, in consultation with the DPH commissioner, to issue legally binding statewide rules setting out these measures; the rules supersede and preempt any current or future municipal order ([EO 7V](#), § 1, Apr. 7, 2020; [DECD Implementation Order](#), Apr. 7, 2020)

Food and Beverage

Alcohol Sales by Take-Out or Delivery

EO 7T:

- Allows sales of sealed alcohol containers by (1) restaurant, cafe, or tavern liquor permittees for pick up with the sale of food and (2) manufacturer permittees for off-premises consumption
- Allows (1) the above permittees to deliver alcoholic beverages directly to consumers under the same conditions as for pick-up and (2) manufacturer permittees for cider and apple brandy and eau-de-vie to open for pick-up or delivery
- Modifies a previous order ([EO 7G](#), § 3, Mar. 19, 2020; [Department of Consumer Protection \(DCP\) Implementation Order](#), Mar. 19, 2020; [EO 7T](#), § 2, Apr. 2, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Apr. 2, 2020)

Beer or Wine Coil Cleaning Requirements

EO 7W:

- Exempts premises that normally sell beer or wine for on-premises consumption from the weekly pipeline cleaning requirement unless the permittee is selling growlers for off-premises consumption ([EO 7W](#), § 3, Apr. 9, 2020)

Curbside Pickup of Alcoholic Beverages

EO 7R:

- Allows package store and grocery store beer permittees to provide curbside pickup of alcoholic beverage sales ([EO 7R](#), § 5, Mar. 31, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Mar. 31, 2020)

Food Trucks at Rest Areas

- Authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner to allow food trucks to operate at interstate highway rest areas until the end of the (1) state's declared emergencies or (2) Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) temporary suspension of commercial activity restrictions in these areas ([FHWA 05-20](#)), whichever is earlier
- Empowers the commissioner to issue any necessary implementing orders ([EO 7X](#), § 5, Apr. 10, 2020; [DOT Implementation Notice](#), Apr. 10, 2020)

Places that Serve Food or Alcohol Limited to Take-out

EO 7X:

- Limits eating establishments and places serving alcohol for on-premises consumption to only serving food for off-premises consumption through May 20
- Extends a previous order's duration ([EO 7D](#), § 2, Mar. 16, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)

Restaurant Payment and Pickup Operations

EO 7N:

- Requires restaurants, eating establishments, and bars selling food for off-premises consumption to limit individuals entering their premises to those picking up and paying for orders
- Requires, to the extent reasonably practical and available, establishments to use touchless or remote payment systems ([EO 7N](#), § 2, Mar. 26, 2020)

Signature Requirement Suspended

EO 7W:

- Suspends the requirement that consumers sign for alcoholic beverages at the curb or upon delivery, provided they are not intoxicated and their age is verified to be 21 or older ([EO 7W](#), § 4, Apr. 9, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Apr. 9, 2020)

Liquor Permits

Approval of Provisional Permits

EO 7W:

- Authorizes the DCP commissioner, instead of the Liquor Control Commission, to issue 90-day provisional liquor permits, their renewals, and any follow-up review ([EO 7W](#), § 6, Apr. 9, 2020)

Extension of 30-Day Period of Credit

EO 7S:

- Generally extends, from 30 to 90 days, the maximum period after the delivery date that credit may be extended from a manufacturer, wholesaler, or other permittee to a retailer that is prohibited, by executive order, from serving alcohol for on-premises consumption ([EO 7S](#), § 3, Apr. 1, 2020)

Filing Requirement Waiver

EO 7W:

- Temporarily waives the requirement that a liquor permit be filed with the town clerk to be effective, provided the clerk's office is closed or the hours are so reduced that filing is unreasonable ([EO 7W](#), § 8, Apr. 9, 2020)

Refunding Certain Application Fees

EO 7B:

- Authorizes DCP to cancel a liquor permit and refund the application fee for people and organizations that cancel certain public outings and no longer need the permit ([EO 7B](#), § 4, Mar. 14, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Mar. 16, 2020)

Renewal Date Extension

EO 7W:

- Generally extends by four months all on-premises liquor permits that were active on March 16, 2020, when [EO 7D](#) prohibited on-premises consumption ([EO 7W](#), § 7, Apr. 9, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Apr. 9, 2020)

Temporary Closures and Permit Return

EO 7W:

- Waives the requirement that liquor permittees that closed due to [EO 7D](#) (1) notify DCP of business closures lasting 60 days or fewer or (2) return the permit to DCP if the business is

closed for more than 60 days, provided they intend to reopen after [EO 7D](#) terminates ([EO 7W](#), § 5, Apr. 9, 2020)

Notarization

DECD Bridge Loan Program

EO 7T:

- Authorizes the DECD commissioner to accept certain nondiscrimination certifications from applicants to the department's [Recovery Bridge Loan](#) program if they are signed under penalty of false statement
- Suspends the requirement that these certifications be submitted as notarized affidavits ([EO 7I](#), § 3, Apr. 2, 2020)

Remote Notarization

EO 7Q:

- Allows notarial acts to be performed remotely through June 23, 2020, and establishes several requirements for these notarizations, including the following:
 - the notary and the signatory must be able to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound
 - a signatory who is not personally known to the notary must present satisfactory identification while communicating with the notary, not merely transmit it before or after the transaction
 - the notary must retain a recording of the complete notarial act for at least 10 years
 - the order suspends all witness requirements for notarizations, except for those concerning a last will and testament
- Modifies a previous order ([EO 7K](#), § 3, Mar. 23, 2020; [EO 7Q](#), § 3, Mar. 30, 2020)

Meetings and Proceedings

Shareholder Meetings

EO 7I:

- Allows corporation boards of directors to hold shareholder meetings remotely using measures already specified in law, such as verifying participant identity

- Requires boards that hold remote shareholder meetings to make the list of shareholders who can vote available for inspection on a reasonably accessible electronic network starting two business days after providing the meeting notice ([EO 7I](#), § 11, Mar. 21, 2020)

Workers' Compensation

EO 7K:

- Suspends all location or venue requirements, time requirements, statutes of limitations, and deadlines under the workers' compensation laws and certain other related laws (e.g., those providing disability compensation to certain state employees or workers' compensation benefits to volunteer firefighters)
- Suspends, for the Workers' Compensation Commission, all time requirements and deadlines relating to the workers' compensation law and other statutory programs and schemes that the commission administers ([EO 7K](#), § 2, Mar. 23, 2020)

Renters

Protections for Residential Renters

EO 7X:

- Prohibits landlords or their representatives from serving a notice to quit or taking other eviction actions before July 1, 2020, except for serious nuisance
- Establishes a 60-day grace period for April rent for tenants, including mobile home residents, by prohibiting landlords from taking eviction action; imposing late fees, interest, or penalties; reporting nonpayment to a credit bureau; or retaliating against tenants, provided the rent is paid within 60 days after its due date
- Establishes a 60-day grace period for May rent if a tenant, by the ninth day after the rent is due, notifies the landlord in writing, including by email, that the tenant has become fully or partially unemployed or experienced significant loss of revenue or increase in expenses due to the pandemic, provided the rent is paid within 60 days after its due date
- Requires landlords, upon request by certain tenants, such as those experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic, to (1) withdraw from escrow the security deposit amount over one month's rent and (2) apply it toward the rent due in April, May, or June 2020
- Prohibits landlords from demanding that the security deposit be restored before the later of the end of the public health emergency or the rental agreement renewal or extension ([EO 7X](#), § 1, Apr. 10, 2020)

Shopping Bags

Plastic Bag Fee

EO 7N:

- Suspends the 10-cent fee on single-use plastic bags through May 15, 2020
- Requires the revenue services commissioner to issue any necessary implementing order or guidance for businesses ([EO 7N](#), § 4, Mar. 26, 2020)

Reusable Bags

EO 7N:

- Prohibits retailers, through May 15, 2020, from requiring employees to bag items in customer-provided reusable bags
- Requires customers using reusable bags to bag their own items if a retail employee refuses to do so ([EO 7N](#), § 5, Mar. 26, 2020)