



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Essential Businesses & Operations

Executive Order 20-10 requires all non-essential businesses and operations to cease all activities except for minimum basic operations. Non-essential businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors working from home.

What businesses and operations are considered essential?

EO 20-10 identifies the following as essential businesses and operations:

- Healthcare and Public Health Operations (includes businesses in the supply chain)
- Human Services Operations
- Essential Infrastructure
 - Food production, distribution and sale; construction, building management and maintenance, airports, utilities, distribution centers, transportation.
- Essential Government Functions
 - First responders, emergency personnel, law enforcement, safety and welfare.
- Stores that sell groceries and medicine
- Food, beverage and cannabis production and agriculture
- Charitable and social services
- Media
- Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation
- Financial institutions
- Hardware and supply stores
- Critical trades
 - Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff, security, etc.
- Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery and pick-up services
- Educational institutions
- Laundry services
- Restaurants for consumption off-premises
- Supplies to work from home
- Supplies for essential businesses and operations
- Transportation (airlines, taxis, ride-sharing)
- Home-based care and services
- Residential facilities and shelters
- Professional services (legal, accounting, insurance, real estate)
- Day care centers for employees exempted by the Executive Order
- Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries
- Critical labor union functions
- Hotels and motels
- Funeral services



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

My business falls within one of the categories. Can I require my employees come to work?

- The intent of the EO is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence. Even essential businesses and operations should promote telecommuting whenever possible.
- Consider alternating work schedules to minimize the number of employees in the office at the same time.
- To the greatest extent feasible, essential businesses and operations shall comply with social distancing requirements, including maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public at all times. They must also take the following practice measures wherever possible:
 - Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
 - Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
 - Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers;
 - Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

I'm not sure if my business falls within one of those categories

Please read the Executive Order as it provides much more information of what businesses and operations are essential. If after this review you still are not sure, you can reach out to DCEO at [contact info] and please be prepared to answer the following questions: :

- What general industry are you in?
- What products do you make/what services do you perform?
 - What is the end use and who are the end users of your products or services?
 - Which specific medical or other essential business do you supply products or provide services to?
 - Is there a pending order or a routine schedule for shipments?
 - If you produce durable equipment, has demand for that equipment by essential businesses increased?
- Can any of your business functions be performed remotely?
- How many employees do you have?
 - Can your employees work remotely?
 - If some or all of the employees must be at the place of business, can operations be modified so that employees work in shifts (one week at home; one week at the place of business)?
- What is the physical layout of the facility where people work?
 - How will you be able to ensure proper distancing?



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

- Do you have hand sanitizer available?
- Are restrooms cleaned frequently and stocked with soap?
- Where do employees eat? Is that cleaned frequently and is there room to social distance?
- Explain why you believe your business falls within one of the essential business categories.

My business is not considered an “Essential Business,” does this order require the business to shut down my facility?

- You and your employees are allowed to perform “Minimum Basic Operations” at your work place, so long as employees maintain a distance of six feet from one another to the greatest extent feasible. Minimum Basic Operations include maintaining the value of inventory, payroll, ensuring security, and ensuring that employees can work remotely. Other than to maintain “Minimum Basic Operations,” employees can only work remotely from their residences.

My technology company provides products and services that the public needs to access critical services. Is my company being completely shut down?

- No. However, most employees of such companies will need to work from home. Anyone who must work onsite to maintain “Essential Infrastructure” for the community or to maintain “Minimum Basic Operations” as described in the Order may continue to work in the workplace so long as they are maintaining social distancing.

Are companies that sell only CDB products and/or nutritional supplements, but not medicine or other medications not requiring a prescription, considered essential businesses?

- No. Companies that only sell these products do not fall within Section 12(a) of the Executive Order and must temporarily cease operations apart from “Minimum Basic Operations.”

Can people who reside in Illinois but perform manufacturing or supply chain work outside the state (where there is no such order in place) be able to travel to their jobs?

- Yes. This order covers businesses in Illinois and their operations; it does not cover businesses that are located outside of Illinois.

Can a retail store have one person come in on a daily basis to pack up online orders and take them to the post office?

- Yes. Maintaining inventory is considered a minimum basic operation that non-essential businesses can continue to perform.

Can a personal trainer have exercise training sessions with 5 or fewer people?



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

- No. Professional services such as a personal trainer is not considered essential business under the restrictions contained in the executive order.

Would manufacturers that produce products for the transportation and construction sectors qualify under Sec. 12(t) of Essential Businesses? (e.g. supply products or parts for street/highway signs and construction sites)

- This depends on how directly and closely linked the manufactured products are to critical infrastructure, public health, and/or essential businesses. You will need to answer additional questions such as: what products are you producing? Do you currently have orders to supply an essential business such as a restaurant, grocery store, or health care facility? Do you currently have orders to supply firms or governments that are building or maintaining critical infrastructure such as roads, railroads, airports, or electrical power plants? If after conducting an analysis guided by the questions above you are still not sure, you can reach out to DCEO at [contact info].

Can golf courses stay open?

- No; recreational sports businesses including golf courses are not considered essential businesses under the executive order.

Are car dealerships considered essential businesses?

- Car dealerships can remain open for repair services. They can also remain open for car sales on an appointment-only basis. Showrooms must remain closed.

Can residential and commercial lawn service remain open?

- Yes. Many landscape projects will fit under an exemption such as construction, agriculture, or public works. Outdoor landscape projects generally will provide for good social distancing that poses little risk of transmission, but it still is important to ensure the ability to wash or sanitize hands and take other precautions.

Is residential remodeling an essential business?

- Generally yes, residential remodeling falls within Section 9 of the Executive Order. However, residential remodeling companies must ensure social distancing compliance during their work.