

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Safer at Home Order – What It Means for Me

What does the Safer at Home Order Mean for Me?

This set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is meant to provide answers specifically related to how the County of Los Angeles "Safer at Home" Health Officer Order may impact different aspects of an individual's daily life. Questions related to how Essential Businesses can further public health in compliance with the Order can be found by viewing the [Health Officer Order FAQ for Businesses](#) at the Public Health COVID-19 website. A [General Health Officer Order FAQ](#) covering the content of the Order is also available there.

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE HOME

1. Can I leave my home?

Yes. The members of the public can leave home to access essential services (i.e., those that meet basic human needs) like buying groceries, going to the doctor, going to work, picking up a prescription or taking children to daycare. However, you should always practice social (physical) distancing anytime you are outside of your home. Minimize the number of trips, keep a physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others whenever possible, and wear a cloth face covering whenever you are in contact with others who don't live with you. See [Guidance for Face Coverings](#) for information on how to safely wear face coverings when you need to leave home.

After leaving each place you went, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and when you get home, wash your hands with warm soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Finally, stay at home if you have fever or respiratory symptoms.

Individuals or members of a single household or living unit can also engage in outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, or biking at sites that are allowed to be open while practicing social (physical) distancing from others.

2. Can I still go to the post office or private mailbox to pick up my mail or go to the laundromat to do my laundry?

Yes, provided that you comply with social (physical) distancing requirements, which includes maintaining at least a six-foot distance from individuals who are not part of the same household and using a cloth face covering while at that location.

3. I had tickets to an event/for travel, will I get my money back?

You will have to work with the vendor to see if the tickets can be refunded.

4. Can I take my pet to be groomed?

Pet grooming can be done by an essential business such as a veterinary clinic or a pet feed store if such services are offered there. Mobile pet grooming is not allowed.

5. Can I take my child to the park?

Yes, if you try to maintain social (physical) distancing from others at the park. However, both indoor and outdoor playgrounds and other park amenities are currently closed.

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6. Can I get married while the order is in effect?

Yes. To be married in-person, the couple being married, the officiant and the witness are allowed to physically be in the same room. Other attendees are not permitted. Social (physical) distancing should be observed during the ceremony (except between the couple). Livestreaming may be an option for others who want to view the ceremony.

In addition, Governor Newsom signed an [executive order](#) that, through June 29, 2020, allows adults to obtain a marriage license by videoconference. This is allowed at the discretion of the local County Clerk, if both adults are located within California, are present, and can present identification during the video conference. Adults can also hold a ceremony to solemnize the marriage via videoconference, if both parties are present and at least one witness can join the live video conference. Visit the Los Angeles County Clerk site at: <https://www.lavote.net/home/county-clerk/marriage-licenses-ceremonies/general-info> to learn if this may be an option for you.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HOME

7. Do I have to perform social (physical) distancing at home with my family?

No, not if they live in the same household or living unit with you.

If you are ill though, you should remain in a separate room preferably with your own bathroom and minimize contact with others in the home to avoid infecting others in the household.

8. Can I still get deliveries from online stores?

Yes. The mail and other delivery services to your home can continue to function. Logistic and delivery businesses may continue to deliver goods or services directly to residences. The delivery person should be wearing a cloth face cover if they must have contact with you to complete the delivery.

9. Can I have visitors inside my house if we stay 6 feet apart?

Only those entering to provide Essential Services or engage in Essential Activities, like caregiving or home repair services and as defined in the Safer at Home Order, should visit. Those providing such services must wear a cloth face covering and practice social (physical) distancing, to the extent feasible, while in your home. Such persons should not enter your home if they are ill.

Everyone should, otherwise, be staying at home. Find other ways to connect with friends through phone calls or electronically.

10. Can I have a personal trainer come to my home or train me outdoors?

No. Personal training, even outdoors and with a single client, is not allowed.

11. Can I call a repair person, such as a plumber to fix a problem in my home?

Yes. You can continue to get services that are needed to maintain the safety and sanitation of your home. Those providing such services must wear a cloth face covering and practice social (physical) distancing, to the extent feasible, while in your home. Repair personnel should not enter your home if they are ill.

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FOOD

12. I don't cook; how can I purchase meals?

Restaurants, cafes, food trucks, and similar establishments are encouraged to remain open to supply meals to the public via delivery, carryout, and drive-thru. You can also purchase prepared foods at grocery stores, supermarkets, warehouse stores, certified farmers' markets, and convenience stores.

13. How can I access free or reduced priced meals for myself or my family?

Soup kitchens, food banks, and other entities that provide free or reduced priced food or meals to the public are encouraged to continue providing these services. You must pick up and take away the food or have it delivered to you. You may not eat on the premises. Visit covid19.lacounty.gov/food for additional information on available resources.

CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES

14. I was issued a Court order. Can I leave my home in order to comply with this?

Yes. Travel outside the home in order to comply with Court or enforcement orders are allowed.

15. I was scheduled to take a citizenship test. Can I still go?

Essential government functions are determined by the government entity that has jurisdiction. In this case, the federal government will determine whether citizenship tests will be held, going forward. Please contact the appropriate government agency administering the test to determine whether you should appear. If required to appear, you must wear a cloth face covering and practice social (physical) distancing while you are there.

If you have a fever or symptoms of illness, you must stay home. You should let the administering agency know and ask about your options for rescheduling or, if available, taking the test from home.

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

16. Can I go to work?

Government employees and private-sector workers employed by businesses that are allowed to be open, including Essential Businesses, Healthcare Operations, Essential Infrastructure, and certain Low-risk Non-essential Businesses that are specifically allowed to be open under the Health Officer Order (HOO), can and should go to work. To review the most recent amendment to the HOO, click [here](#).

If you are able to go to work, check with your employer about social (physical) distancing from patrons and other employees, alternative work schedules, working from home, or any other practices that they may have put into place to help protect you and the people that you serve.

17. Can I apply for unemployment?

If your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you may be able to file a claim for unemployment insurance. You can find information here:

www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019

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18. Can educational institutions remain open?

Yes, for purposes of facilitating distance learning, providing meals for pick-up, or performing essential functions or Minimum Business Operations while implementing a Social (physical) Distancing Protocol, including cloth face coverings during those activities that require contact with others.

TRAVEL

19. Is it OK to take public transit, ride-sharing services (e.g. Lyft or Uber) or wait at bus stops or metro stations for transit?

You should limit travel outside of the home to those activities that are considered essential, but you can take public transportation or use ride-sharing services as long as you wear a face covering during your ride and at stops/stations where others are present. Those without a cloth face covering can also cover their face during the ride with a jacket or other clothing item. To the extent possible, you should also maintain at least 6 feet of space from others.

20. If I'm outside the county, am I allowed to come home?

Yes, you can travel as necessary to return to your home.

HOUSING

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

People who are experiencing homelessness are encouraged to try to stay with family or friends, identify housing options, or access emergency resources, such as shelters. You can call 2-1-1 for additional information on resources.

22. My home environment is abusive. Do I still need to stay at home?

No, you should not stay in environments that are unsafe. Contact 2-1-1 to identify safe and supportive housing alternatives.

23. Can I be evicted from my house or apartment while the safer at home order is in effect?

Some local jurisdictions have issued renter protections during the Safer at Home Order. Check with your local city office to see if they have put any eviction protections in place where you live. For additional information on eviction moratoriums and rent freezes visit dca.lacounty.gov/noevictions

24. Can individuals continue to stay in dorms, shelters or other congregate settings?

Yes, and follow the institution's measures to reduce the spread of disease. They must also implement social (physical) distancing and infection control practices within their settings.

25. Can I move into a second residence or a new home?

It is recommended that you stay in your primary residence for your health and safety as well as for the health and safety of both communities. It is only advisable to move into a new home if it cannot be postponed or if the move is necessary for safety or sanitation reasons or to preserve access to shelter.

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CAREGIVING

26. Am I allowed to care for a family member or pet who requires assistance to care for themselves at their home or residence? Or a friend or family member with disabilities?

Yes. You can provide care and services for vulnerable and dependent people or animals. However, you should take precautions to protect them and yourself, such as ensuring you don't have a fever or symptoms of illness before leaving to provide care, keeping at least 6 feet from others whenever possible, wearing a cloth face covering while you are there (or a surgical mask if you are caring for an ill individual), and frequently washing your hands or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, including immediately after entering and leaving their home.

27. Can I leave my home to take my children, dependents, older family members, or those with disabilities to necessary appointments like healthcare or social service visits?

Yes, as long as you use social (physical) distancing as much as possible, you can leave your home to care for these individuals, including taking them to necessary appointments.

28. Can I visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility?

To protect, patients/residents, visitors, and healthcare personnel, face-to-face visits are only allowed at licensed congregate healthcare facilities, such as skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities, when visiting a child and for end-of-life visits. Many hospitals also have policies that only allow face-to-face visits for these circumstances. Outside of pediatric and end-of-life visits, please use other ways to communicate with loved ones such as telephone calls, texts, and video calls.

29. A family member recently passed. Can I travel to deal with after-death arrangements?

We are saddened by your loss and keep you in our thoughts. Yes, you are allowed to travel to take care of essential business such as this. Just be sure to review the requirements that the jurisdiction you will be traveling to has around funeral arrangements and gatherings. See the public health website for guidance on how [funerals](#) can be conducted in Los Angeles County

HEALTHCARE

30. Can I go to group treatment and peer support groups (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous)?

All participants in group counseling services must attend meetings remotely if they are equipped to do so. Groups should make accommodations for remote support to the maximum extent feasible. If remote participation is not feasible or advisable under the circumstances, participation may occur in person with 10 or fewer participants, so long as there is compliance with social (physical) distancing requirements.

31. Can I leave my home to seek medical care or pick up medications?

Yes, you can leave in order to seek essential services such as medical care or to pick up medications. Be sure to call your provider first since many practices are now offering telemedicine services. Similarly, check to see if your medications can be delivered to your home.

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32. Can I still leave the home to donate blood?

You can continue to give blood at Red Cross centers and at blood donation sites.

Blood drives are not prohibited by the Safer at Home or other Los Angeles County Orders if social (physical) distancing practices are in place. Red Cross will continue to hold blood drives to help meet patient needs and has implemented new measures that ensure that blood drives and donation centers are even safer for donors and staff. You should be prepared to wear a cloth face covering while you are there.