

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1466

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 26, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health announced new and expanded measures to increase testing and data analysis to identify regions and localities that are at higher risk for transmission of COVID-19 and to provide more location-specific restrictions and limitation of movement and social interaction to combat the virus in those regions and localities; and

**WHEREAS**, additional measures are needed to further disrupt and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus within the State and to manage needed healthcare and emergency management resources; accordingly, all individuals residing in the State of Mississippi will need to temporarily remain in their home or place of residence, and certain businesses and public amenities need to be temporarily closed to the public.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. Shelter in Place

a. **Duration:** This Shelter in Place shall be effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020, and shall remain in full force and effect until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, unless rescinded, modified or extended. The end date of the Lauderdale County shelter in place ordered by Executive Order No. 1465 is hereby amended to coincide with the dates established pursuant to this order.

b. **Shelter in Place:**

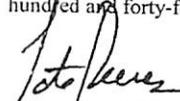
- i. Pursuant to the Mississippi Emergency Management Act including but not limited to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-11(b)(1), 33-15-11(b)(4), 33-15-11(b)(6), 33-15-11(c)(1), 33-15-11(c)(4) & 33-15-31, with exceptions described herein, all individuals currently living in the State of Mississippi are ordered to stay at home or in their place of residence except as allowed in this Executive Order.
- ii. For individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe (for example, because of domestic violence, lack of sanitation or utilities) they may, and are encouraged to, seek alternate locations. Local law enforcement and other officials shall assist such individuals to secure such alternative locations.
- iii. Individuals using outdoor space when outside their homes or residences at all times shall maintain social distancing of a minimum of 6 ft. distance between each individual and shall avoid gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- iv. For purposes of this Executive Order the terms "home" and "residence" include single family homes, hotels, rental units, shelters, mobile home parks, and similar facilities used as an individual's principal dwelling.

- c. **Evictions Suspended:** Pursuant to Miss. Code. Ann. §§ 33-15-11(c)(1) and 33-15-11(c)(4), evictions within the State of Mississippi are suspended, and all state, county and local law enforcement officers are directed to cease enforcement of orders of eviction for residential premises during this Shelter in Place Order. No provision contained within this Executive Order shall be construed as relieving any individual of the obligation to pay rent, to make mortgage payments, or to comply with any other obligation that an individual may have under tenancy or mortgage.
- d. **Non-essential Business and Operations Cease**
  - i. All businesses and non-profit entities operating within the State of Mississippi, except for Essential Business or Operations identified in Executive Order No. 1463 as Supplemented (which is incorporated herein by reference), shall cease operation and all activities except Minimum Operations as defined herein.
  - ii. Minimum Operations are those activities necessary for the business or operation to maintain the condition of facilities, premises and equipment, value of business inventory, payroll, employee benefits, security, and to facilitate employees of the business or operation to continue to work remotely from their residences.
- e. **Essential Business or Operations Remain Open**
  - i. Essential Businesses or Operations identified in Executive Order 1463 as Supplemented may remain open and shall operate at such level as necessary to provide essential services and functions.
  - ii. For clarity, Essential Healthcare Operations identified within Executive Order 1463 as Supplemented shall be construed broadly to avoid impact or interruption of the delivery of essential healthcare, but does not include fitness and exercise gyms, dance studios, clubs, tattoo parlors, spas, salons, barber shops, and other similar personal care and grooming facilities.
  - iii. Restaurants and Bars may remain open but are limited to drive-thru, curbside, and/or delivery service.
- f. **Prohibited Activities**
  - i. Consistent with Executive Order No. 1463 as Supplemented, all public and private social and other non-essential gatherings in groups of more than 10 people in a single space at the same time where individuals are in close proximity (less than 6 ft.) to each other shall be cancelled or rescheduled.
  - ii. All places of amusement and recreation, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to amusement parks and rides, museums, playgrounds, children's party and play facilities, all parks including all beaches, lakes and reservoirs (but not including walking trails), movie theaters, bowling alleys, and social clubs shall be closed to the public.
- g. **Essential Activities:** Individuals may leave their residences only to perform the following Essential Activities:
  - i. To engage in activities or perform tasks necessary to their health and safety, or the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets) or the health and safety of those persons who are unable to or should not leave their home.
  - ii. To obtain necessary food, services or supplies for themselves and members of their household needed to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of the home or residence, or to deliver those services or goods to those persons who are unable to or should not leave their home.
  - iii. To engage in individual outdoor activity and recreation.
  - iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations (as defined in Executive Order No. 1463 as Supplemented) or to carry out activities permitted in this Executive Order, including Minimum Operations.
- h. **Essential Travel:** Individuals engaged in Essential Travel must adhere to both the CDC and the Mississippi State Department of Health recommendations and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing (6 ft. between individuals) and aggressive hygiene including frequent handwashing (minimum 20 seconds) and use of hand sanitizer. For purposes of this Executive Order, Essential Travel includes travel for the following purposes:

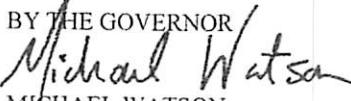
- i. Travel for Essential Business or Operation, as defined in Executive Order No. 1463 as Supplemented.
  - ii. Travel for Essential Activities, as defined herein.
  - iii. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons including to obtain COVID-19 testing for such individuals.
  - iv. Travel to or from educational institutions including public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and other educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and other education related purposes.
  - v. Travel to or from their place of residence.
  - vi. Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
- i. **County and Local Municipal Authority:** Nothing in this Executive Order shall limit or alter the authority of any local or county authority from adopting orders, rules, regulations, resolutions, and actions that are more strict than established herein, provided that they do not impose restrictions that prevent any Essential Business or Operation as identified in Executive Order No. 1463 as Supplemented from operating at such level necessary to provide essential services and functions during this COVID-19 State of Emergency.
- II. Delegate Authority to Issue and Enforce Quarantine and Isolation Orders:
- a. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(5) and § 33-15-31, the State Health Officer in consultation with the Governor is authorized and empowered to issue such orders as necessary to carry out, implement, and enforce any quarantine or isolation orders to contain and restrict transmission of COVID-19.
  - b. That this authority is in addition to, and consistent with, the Mississippi State Department of Health's authority to issue, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine orders pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 41-23-5 and other controlling law.
  - c. Nothing in this Executive Order limits or alters the authority under Miss. Code Ann. § 21-19-3 for a governing authority of a municipality to enact and enforce more restrictive measures to contain and restrict transmission of COVID-19.
- III. Enforcement of Shelter in Place:
- a. This Executive Order may be enforced by all State, County and Local law enforcement, as well as by other governmental entities (such as State and local departments of health) to the fullest extent under Mississippi law including, *inter alia*, Miss. Code. Ann. §§ 33-15-11(b)(5) and 33-15-11(b)(6).
  - b. Violations of this Executive Order are subject to the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-43.
- IV. That all departments, commissions, agencies, institutions, and boards of the State of Mississippi, political subdivisions thereof, counties, municipalities and school districts are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions and measures taken in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 1st day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR  
  
MICHAEL WATSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## **SHELTER IN PLACE FAQs:**

- **How long will this last?**
  - **It will be in effect from Friday, April 3, 2020 at 5:00 PM until Monday, April 20, 2020 at 8:00 AM.**
  
- **Can I go to work?**
  - **If you work for an essential Business or Operation you may continue to go to work.**
  - **If your place of work is closed, you may go to work for minimum operations such as maintaining the condition of facilities, for security, to preserve value of business inventory, for payroll and employee benefits,**
  - **If you're working remotely from home, you can go to work to get things necessary for you to continue to work remotely from your home or residence.**
  
- **Can I go to the grocery store?**
  - **Of course, but we need your cooperation. Make a list and buy your groceries and supplies in as few trips as possible—once a week not once a day.**
  - **Go to the grocery store only to buy food or supplies needed to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of your home, not for any social gatherings, such as morning coffee club.**
  
- **Can I go to the doctor/dentist?**
  - **Yes. Travel for health and safety is permitted.**
  - **For previously scheduled appointments, check with your healthcare provider before traveling. Your healthcare provider should be observing instructions from the Mississippi Dept. of Health and not conducting non-essential visits or performing elective procedures or surgery. If healthcare visits and procedures can safely be rescheduled they should be.**
  
- **Can I go to the pharmacy to fill my prescription?**
  - **Yes. Travel for health and safety is permitted.**

- **Can I travel to and from work if I live in the county and work outside the county?**
  - **Yes. This shelter in place applies to your County. But you should consider taking your most recent pay stub or other record to establish where you work.**
  
- **Can I go to school or take my child to school?**
  - **Travel to or from schools is allowed for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, to receive meals, and for other education related purposes.**
  
- **Can I exercise or work out?**
  - **Gyms and health clubs and parks (not including walking trails) are closed during this Shelter in Place. But individual outdoor recreation is encouraged.**
  - **This would include running, biking, walking or even shooting baskets by yourself, but no group recreation or activities such as soccer or basketball games.**
  
- **Can I get my hair and nails done?**
  - **No. Salons, barbershops and other similar personal care and grooming facilities are closed during this Shelter in Place.**
  
- **Can I go shopping?**
  - **Yes, but only for food or supplies needed to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of your home or for other people who are unable to or should not leave their home.**
  
- **Can I visit a family member in the hospital or nursing home?**
  - **No. Most visits are not allowed. For the safety of residents, patients and staff, visits to hospitals and nursing homes are prohibited except to visit those individuals receiving imminent end-of-life care, or as otherwise allowed by that healthcare facility.**
  
- **Can I travel outside the county to visit family?**
  - **Social gatherings of more than 10 people are not permitted**
  - **Travel is permitted for health and safety, or to get necessary food, services or supplies for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with**

**disabilities, or other vulnerable persons whether in or outside of the county.**

- **I have an elderly shut-in relative, may I help them buy groceries, deliver medicine, or take them to an essential doctor visit?**
  - **Yes. Travel is permitted for health and safety, or to get necessary food, services or supplies for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.**
- **What if I'm laid off while my business is closed during this COVID-19 epidemic?**
  - **Contact the Mississippi Department of Employment Security <https://mdes.ms.gov/> or your local WIN Job Center for assistance.**
  - **You should also consult with your employer.**
- **My family reunion will have more than 10 people attending and it is scheduled during this shelter in place, may I still go?**
  - **No. All non-essential, social gatherings of more than 10 people must be cancelled or rescheduled. This includes gatherings like weddings, funerals, reunions, and backyard barbecues.**
- **If a family member has been quarantined because of a known contact with an active diagnosed case of COVID-19, may I still visit him/her?**
  - **No. Please consult with the appropriate medical and health officials on specific instructions.**
- **I have a court appearance schedule during this shelter in place order, may I attend?**
  - **Yes. Courts are an Essential Business or Operation. But please consult with your attorney and court personnel to be sure of the date and time, or to learn if it has been postponed or rescheduled before traveling.**

- **What if my City or Town has adopted more strict regulations?**
  - **Combatting COVID-19 in Mississippi is a joint effort with federal, State, County and Local officials working together.**
  - **Local or county authorities understand the local community best and may adopt and enforce rules that are more strict as long they do not prevent any Essential Business or Operation as identified in Executive Order No. 1463 from providing essential services and functions.**
  
- **How do I know if my business is essential?**
  - **Essential Business or Operations are established by Executive Order 1463. That order is available on the Secretary of State's website under Communications and Publications/Executive Orders at <https://www.sos.ms.gov/Education-Publications/Pages/Executive-Orders.aspx>**
  
- **When I'm traveling, how can I establish that I work for an Essential Business or Operation?**
  - **Have some record that identifies your place of employment—such as most recent pay stub or any letter or identification your employer gives you.**
  - **If you have any questions ask your employer and/or review the list on Executive Order 1463 at <https://www.sos.ms.gov/Education-Publications/Pages/Executive-Orders.aspx>.**

- Law Lighthouses Close: Court Functions of Govt must continue. Court Houses must stay open, but you can reduce the number of staff.
- Road Crews: Should we shut down or do limited basis? You should determine if they are essential. Do what you think? Suggest work, but limit number of people in one vehicle.
- April High recreation month: Beaches, lakes - boat ramps - fishing docks, are to be closed. Individual outdoor rec is allowable. No beaches, he has seen large number of people gathering up; down river. Private beach houses okay but no more than 10 people. Playgrounds no more than 10.
- Does my business have to close? Churches? Cannot have more than 10 people - you don't have to close the church but follow the rule. Essential business. There is a list, just follow it.

11:00-11:30

Conf Call w/ Supr: Governor

4-2-20