

# "Shelter in Place" Executive Order

## BACKGROUND

On April 2, 2020, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp issued an [Executive Order](#), which issued a statewide "shelter in place" in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. This document provides an analysis of the order and guidance for forestry businesses. Two key provisions of the order include:

- The Executive Order and [supporting memo](#) from the Governor's Office makes clear that forestry workers are included as a critical workforce under the [guidance from the Department of Homeland Security](#).
- This statewide order supersedes and replaces the patchwork of local ordinances at the city and county level
- Thanks to clear direction from the Governor's office, a letter allowing critical industry workers to circulate is not required [at this time](#).

## GENERAL DIRECTION

- The Shelter-In-Place order takes effect 6PM, 4/3 and
- All residents and visitors must observe CDC social distancing guidelines
- All businesses, corporations, non-profits, and other organizations with 10 or more people will NOT be allowed to congregate UNLESS 6 feet of separation can be achieved
  - **This does NOT apply to critical infrastructure (includes forest industry)**
- **This order supersedes and replaces all local ordinances and no more local ordinances on this subject are to be passed while the statewide order is in effect**

## SHELTER IN PLACE

- **All Georgia residents must shelter in place in their homes UNLESS:**
  - **They are traveling to/from/engaging in working in a critical industry (includes forest industry)**
  - They are undertaking essential tasks like getting groceries, getting medical supplies, or emergency situations
  - They are performing "minimum basic operations" of any non-critical business/organization – this includes tasks like "minimum necessary activities necessary to maintain the value of a business," processing payroll/benefits, managing inventory, facilitating remote work for others, on-site security, etc.
  - Specifically mentions work outdoors where contact with other people is infrequent such as agriculture industry services (**i.e. cruising timber**)

## CRITICAL WORKFORCE DEFINITIONS

- **Critical workforce refers to businesses defined by U.S. Department of Homeland Security guidance that includes a wide variety of industries including forestry, agriculture, energy, healthcare, etc.**
  - **Any suppliers of critical industry are also considered part of the critical workforce**
  - Also includes providers of home hospice, legal services, mental health services, and food distribution
- **The operation of critical infrastructure cannot be impeded by any county or city ordinance**

## OTHER IMPORTANT PROVISIONS

- Those sheltering in place are not to receive visitors to their homes unless for visitors providing essential functions like providing health care, food, essential supplies, home hospice, etc.
  - No visitor rules strictly enforced at places like nursing homes/long-term care that have residents who are high risk to COVID-19
- All non-critical infrastructure businesses must undertake specific COVID-19 mitigation measures such as requiring employees who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms to be sent home or seek medical attention, prohibiting gathering of employees, requiring handwashing, enhancing sanitation of the workplace, holding all meetings virtually as much as possible, increasing physical space between workers and customers, and between co-workers (at least 6 feet), etc.
- Critical infrastructure businesses will be required to take many of the same (but not all) mitigation measures listed above. One notable difference not having the requirement for ensuring employees worksites to 6 feet apart.
- Georgia Department of Economic Development is authorized to advise any business or organization who asks if they qualify as critical infrastructure
- Dine-in prohibited at restaurants – take out/delivery only
- All bars, gyms, bowling alleys, amusement parks, hair salons shall cease operations and be closed to the public



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