

Forsyth County Stay at Home Order FAQ

What is the Stay at Home Order?

Forsyth County issued a [Stay-at-Home Order](#) that went into effect at **5 p.m. on Friday, March 27**, for unincorporated areas of the county and Kernersville, Tobaccoville, Bethania, and Walkertown. The order expires at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, but it may be revised as the situation warrants. The County Stay-at-Home Order adopts the City of Winston-Salem's [Stay-at-Home Order](#) and contains the same restrictions. It says residents should stay at home unless leaving for essential activities or to work at an essential business or government service. Essential businesses are encouraged to stay open while practicing social distancing. This is being done to practice social distancing and slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

If you live in the Village of Clemmons, you are subject to its [Shelter in Place Order](#). Residents of Lewisville are under its [Stay at Home Order](#). Rural Hall and King are under the governor's statewide [Stay-at-Home Order](#).

What am I allowed to do?

You're still allowed to do essential activities like

- Working at essential businesses
- Grocery shopping
- Picking up take-out food
- Getting gas
- Going to the bank
- Going to the doctor or pharmacy
- Taking care of others
- Outdoor activities like walking your dog, jogging and bike riding
- Taking your pet to a veterinarian
- Helping someone else get necessary supplies
- Receiving deliveries from any business that delivers
- Travel to get materials for distance learning

Do I need a permit to travel?

Travel should be restricted to essential activities, but NO permit or papers are needed to travel in the county.

What should I NOT do?

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out

- Visit someone in a hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility or other residential care facility, except for limited exceptions as provided by that facility
- Leave your home except for essential travel and activities
- Attend a church service, club, or social gathering with more than 10 people

What are Essential Businesses and Services?

- Healthcare, public health, law enforcement, public safety and first responders.\
- Food, beverages, and agriculture (manufacturing, production, processing, cultivation including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, distribution of animals and good for consumption, providing food, shelter, and other necessities for animals).
- Stores that sell groceries and medicine.
- Organizations that provide charitable and social services (businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations including food banks, when providing food and shelter, social services, and other necessities for life for economically disadvantaged or needy individuals, individuals who need assistance, and people with disabilities).
- Energy.
- Water and wastewater.
- Transportation and logistics.
- Public works.
- Communication and information technology.
- Media.
- Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation (gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities).
- Financial institutions (banks, currency exchange, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to payday lenders, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and future exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products).
- Hardware and supply stores.
- Critical trades (building and construction – plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, and essential businesses).
- Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services (post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels).
- Laundry services.
- Restaurants for consumption off-premises (in-house delivery, third-party deliver, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out).
- Supplies to work from home.

- Supplies for essential businesses and operations (see #14 in the order for details).
- Transportation (airlines, taxis, public transportation, vehicle rental, logistics).
- Home-based care and services (home-based care for adults, seniors, children, people with disabilities).
- Residential facilities and shelters.
- Professional services (legal, accounting, insurance, real estate, restricted to appraisal and title services).
- Childcare centers (for specific employees – first responders, healthcare workers, public health, etc).
- Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain (see #20 in the order for details).
- Hotels and motels.
- Funeral services.
- Other community-based government operations and essential functions including human services.
- Other community-based human service operations.
- Critical manufacturing.
- Hazardous materials

For a more specific list of essential businesses, please refer to the ordinance used in the City of Winston-Salem's [order](#).

What happens to non-essential businesses?

This order closes non-essential businesses. Businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors working from their own homes.

Those businesses can still conduct minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the businesses' inventory; preserve the condition of the business's building, grounds and equipment; ensure security; process payroll and employee benefits; or perform related functions.

What else does it close?

It closes playgrounds, though parks remain open. It closes all places of public amusement where people may gather, whether indoors or outdoors, including locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, children's play centers, playgrounds, recreation centers, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, movie and other theaters, concert and music halls, and country clubs or social clubs.

What are the prohibitions on gatherings?

It prohibits public and private gatherings of more than 10 people. Gatherings of members of a household or residence are permitted.

How will this be enforced?

Local law enforcement officials will enforce the order through education, dialogue, and seeking voluntary cooperation with all residents and businesses. If officials encounter violations of the order, they will request changes be made for individuals to become compliant. If voluntary cooperation is not achieved, they are authorized to enforce these restrictions through citations.

Is County Government still open?

Yes. All Forsyth County Government departments will continue to operate with numerous changes that were made for social distancing that can be found at <https://forsyth.cc/citizenservices.aspx>. Traveling to a county office for services is allowed under the order, but please check to see if that office is still open to the public and do not come if you're sick.

What are the social distancing requirements in this order?

Essential businesses and those doing essential activities are expected to practice social distancing:

- Keeping 6 feet between you and others.
- Using hand sanitizer and sanitizing products.
- Having separate operating hours for vulnerable populations.
- Using online and remote access when possible.