

COVID-19 Executive Orders Affecting Business, Labor, and Housing

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Notice to Readers

This report provides brief summaries of the governor's COVID-19 executive orders concerning business, labor, and housing. The report includes all related executive orders since the governor's March 10, 2020, [declaration](#) of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, through June 18, 2020.

Each summary indicates the Executive Order (EO) number and enactment date. Not all provisions of the orders are included. The orders are grouped by category for ease of reference.

Three additional reports summarize the governor's COVID-19 executive orders concerning (1) education and child care, (2) health and human services, and (3) state and local government and elections. All four reports are available on OLR's website: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/>. The reports will be updated promptly as the governor issues new related orders. For additional OLR reports on COVID-19 related policy topics, visit the dedicated [OLR COVID-19 page](#).

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of the orders, and related state agency actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, from the governor's website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Emergency-Orders-issued-by-the-Governor-and-State-Agencies>.

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Business Closures and Restrictions

This section summarizes executive orders that close or restrict certain business operations. Sections summarizing provisions that have been entirely repealed or superseded appear in gray. For information on executive orders allowing certain businesses to reopen, **see Business Openings**.

Essential and Non-Essential Businesses

EO 7X:

- Generally required, through May 20, non-essential businesses and nonprofits to reduce their in-person workforce by 100%
- Allowed non-essential (1) retailers to be staffed onsite if they offered only remote ordering and delivery or curbside pick-up and (2) businesses and nonprofits to allow staff and third parties onsite to the minimum extent necessary to provide security, maintenance, mail and package receipt, and other services the Department of Economic Community Development (DECD) deemed necessary
- Required DECD to determine which businesses are essential and allowed businesses to request to be deemed essential
- Extended previous orders' duration ([EO 7H](#), § 1, Mar. 20, 2020; [EO 7J](#), § 1, Mar. 22, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; [DECD Business Exemptions Guidance](#), Mar. 22, 2020)
- **Repealed by [EO 7PP](#); see **Business Openings**** for orders allowing certain businesses to reopen

Extension of Telecommuting Provisions

EO 7ZZ:

- Generally requires businesses and nonprofits to employ work from home or telecommuting procedures to the maximum extent possible for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7H](#), § 1, Mar. 20, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; [EO 7PP](#), § 1b, May 18, 2020; [EO 7ZZ](#), § 10, Jun. 16, 2020)

Gym, Recreation Facility, and Movie Theater Operations

EO 7PP:

- Prohibited gyms; sports, fitness, and recreation facilities; and movie theaters from operating until June 20

- Extended previous orders' duration (EO 7D, § 4, Mar. 16, 2020; EO 7X, § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; EO 7PP, § 4, May 18, 2020)
- **Repealed by EO 7ZZ; see **Business Openings**** for new order concerning gym, recreation facility, and movie theater operations

Hairdressers, Tattoo or Piercing Parlors, and Related Businesses

EO 7TT:

- Prohibited barbers, hairdressers, and similar providers from operating in public settings through May 31
- Prohibited nail technicians, electrologists, estheticians, eyelash technicians, and tattoo and piercing providers from operating in public settings
- Modified a previous order (EO 7G, § 4, Mar. 19, 2020; EO 7TT, § 1, May 29, 2020)
- **Repealed by EO 7ZZ; see **Business Openings**** for modified orders concerning these businesses

Large Indoor Malls

EO 7X:

- Closed specified large shopping malls, including indoor common areas and the stores, pharmacies, restaurants, and other establishments in them without their own external entrance through May 20
- Allowed essential mall-based businesses to remain open if they use only their own external entrances and exits
- Extended previous orders' duration (EO 7E, § 1, Mar. 18, 2020; EO 7H, § 1, Mar. 20, 2020; EO 7X, § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)
- **Repealed by EO 7PP; see **Business Openings**** for modified order concerning malls

Non-Essential Lodging Prohibition

EO 7T:

- Generally prohibited non-essential lodging in hotels, motels, short-term rentals, and other similar businesses, except for certain places rented for more than 31 days

- Allowed these businesses to provide lodging only to (1) health care workers, first responders, and other specified workers in certain businesses; (2) vulnerable populations; (3) certain Connecticut residents (e.g., those who are self-isolating); and (4) those receiving specialized medical care or with extenuating circumstances ([EO 7T](#), § 1, Apr. 2, 2020)
- **Repealed by [EO 7ZZ](#); see **Business Openings**** for new order concerning lodging

OTB Facility Operations

EO 7ZZ:

- Closes Off-Track Betting (OTB) facilities through July 20
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7D](#), § 3, Mar. 16, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; [EO 7PP](#), § 4, May 18, 2020; [EO 7ZZ](#), § 9, Jun. 16, 2020)

Places of Public Amusement

EO 7PP:

- Closed indoor and outdoor places of public amusement (e.g., amusement parks, aquariums, arcades, bowling alleys) through June 20, except those explicitly permitted to open (**see [Business Openings](#)**)
- Excluded public parks and open recreation areas
- Extended previous orders' duration ([EO 7E](#), § 2, Mar. 18, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; [EO 7PP](#), § 1, May 18, 2020)
- **Repealed by [EO 7AAA](#); see **Business Openings**** for new order concerning places of public amusement

Retail Operations

EO 7X:

- Required, through May 20, retail establishments that were allowed to remain open to (1) take appropriate and reasonable actions to ensure customers maintain six feet of distance between one another (including when in line to enter) and (2) if practicable, use touchless payment options
- Required these establishments to take additional protective measures developed by DECD in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), which were mandatory statewide and superseded and preempted any current or future municipal order

- Made firearms transactions appointment-only through May 15
- Extended previous orders' duration ([EO 7N](#), § 3, Mar. 26, 2020; [EO 7S](#), § 1, Apr. 1, 2020; [DECD Implementation Order](#), Apr. 1, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020)
- **Repealed by EO 7PP; see Business Openings** for new order concerning retail establishments

EO 7BB:

- Required DECD to revise its [Essential Safe Store Rules](#) to include face covering requirements ([EO 7BB](#), § 1, Apr. 17, 2020)
- [Essential Safe Store Rules](#) **superseded** by DECD's [Sector Rules for Retail and Malls](#) referenced in EO 7PP; **see Business Openings** for more information

Safe Workplaces

EO 7V:

- Requires each workplace in the state to take additional protective measures to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19
- Requires the DECD commissioner, in consultation with the DPH commissioner, to issue legally binding statewide rules setting out these measures; the rules supersede and preempt any current or future municipal order ([EO 7V](#), § 1, Apr. 7, 2020; [DECD Implementation Order](#), Apr. 7, 2020)
- **See Business Openings** for information on how these rules interact with EO 7PP

EO 7BB:

- Requires DECD to revise its [Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employees](#) to include face covering requirements ([EO 7BB](#), § 1, Apr. 17, 2020)

Business Openings

This section summarizes executive orders that allow certain businesses to reopen. For information about the orders that closed or restricted business operations, please **see Business Closures and Restrictions** or **Food and Beverage**, as appropriate.

DECD Authority to Allow Additional Openings

EO 7PP:

- Allows the DECD commissioner, without additional executive orders, to amend any [Sector Rules](#) to include additional businesses or business types and provide effective dates for when these entities may reopen ([EO 7PP](#), § 1f, May 18, 2020)

DECD Rules

EO 7PP:

- Specifies that (1) DECD's [Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers](#) remain in effect for any essential businesses not subject to DECD's Sector Rules and (2) the Sector Rules apply to any business permitted to reopen ([EO 7PP](#), § 1g, May 18, 2020; [DECD Sector Rules](#), May 8, 2020; [DECD Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers](#), Apr. 7, 2020)

Enforcement of Rules Governing Business Openings

EO 7PP:

- Makes it a public nuisance to violate DECD's [Sector Rules](#) on the reopening of various businesses
- Authorizes local or district health directors to order the closure of “public health facilities” that do not comply with the sector rules; term includes hair and nail salons and similar establishments, tattoo or piercing establishments, restaurants, and any locations licensed for on-premises alcohol consumption
- Requires the public health commissioner to designate to municipal employees or officials the authority over these public nuisances by entities, other than public health facilities; the municipal chief executive officer selects these employees or officials, who cannot be local or district health directors or their staff; authorizes these designees to order the closure of entities that do not comply with the sector rules ([EO 7PP](#), § 2, May 18, 2020)

Gym, Recreation Facility, and Movie Theater Operations

EO 7ZZ:

- Allows gyms; sports, fitness, and recreation facilities; and movie theaters to operate in accordance with DECD's sector rules for [sports and fitness facilities](#) or [indoor recreation venues](#), as appropriate ([EO 7ZZ](#), § 7, Jun. 16, 2020)

Hair Salons and Barbershops

EO 7TT:

- Allows hair salons and barbershops to operate in accordance with DECD's [Sector Rules for Hair Salons and Barbershops](#) (EO 7TT, § 1, May 29, 2020)

Indoor Dining

EO 7ZZ:

- Allows indoor dining in accordance with DECD's [Sector Rules for Restaurants](#) (EO 7ZZ, § 4, Jun. 16, 2020)

Museums and Zoos

EO 7PP:

- Allows museums and zoos to reopen subject to DECD's [Sector Rules for Museums and Zoos](#) (EO 7PP, § 1d, May 18, 2020)

Offices

EO 7PP:

- Allows offices to reopen pursuant to DECD's [Sector Rules for Offices](#)
- Supersedes a previous order's on-site staffing provisions (EO 7PP, § 1b, May 18, 2020)

Outdoor Dining

EO 7PP:

- Allows eating establishments and places serving alcohol for on-premises consumption to serve food outdoors in accordance with the outdoor dining provisions in EO 7MM, DECD's [Sector Rules for Restaurants](#), and any EO on selling or serving alcohol
- Allows alcohol sales with the sale of food only in accordance with EO 7MM (EO 7PP, § 1a, May 18, 2020)
- See **Food and Beverage** for more information

Outdoor Recreation and Other Businesses

EO 7PP:

- Allows any business covered by DECD's [Sector Rules for General Business](#) to reopen

- Allows DECD to amend this list of covered business types from time to time ([EO 7PP](#), § 1e, May 18, 2020)

Personal Services

EO 7ZZ:

- Allows cosmeticians, nail technicians, electrologists, estheticians, eyelash technicians, and tattoo and piercing providers to operate in accordance with DECD's [Sector Rules for Personal Services](#) ([EO 7ZZ](#), § 6, Jun. 16, 2020)

Places of Public Amusement

EO 7AAA:

- Allows places of public amusement to operate in accordance with DECD's [Sector Rules for Amusement Parks](#)
- Modifies a previous order ([EO 7ZZ](#), § 8, Jun. 16, 2020; [EO 7AAA](#), § 1, Jun. 17, 2020)

Retail and Malls

EO 7PP:

- Allows retail establishments and malls to operate in accordance with DECD's [Sector Rules for Retail and Malls](#) ([EO 7PP](#), § 1c, May 18, 2020)

Temporary Lodging

EO 7ZZ:

- Allows hotels and other commercial lodging, including timeshares or multi-unit lodging that operate like hotels or employ staff on-site, to operate in accordance with DECD's [Sector Rules for Hotels/Lodging](#) ([EO 7ZZ](#), § 1, Jun. 16, 2020)

Food and Beverage

Alcohol Sales by Take-Out or Delivery

EO 7PP:

- Allows sales of sealed alcohol containers by (1) restaurant, cafe, or tavern liquor permittees for pick up with the sale of food and (2) manufacturer permittees for off-premises consumption

- Allows (1) the above permittees to deliver alcoholic beverages directly to consumers under the same conditions as for pick-up and (2) manufacturer permittees for cider and apple brandy and eau-de-vie to open for pick-up or delivery
- Allows club, nonprofit club, or golf country club permittees to deliver or offer pick up of food and alcohol to their members under the same conditions as restaurants
- Allows hotel liquor permittees to sell alcoholic beverages for pickup or delivery consistent with the same requirements as other permittees under prior EOs and DECD's [Sector Rules for Restaurants](#)
- Allows permittees to sell mixed drinks in closed or sealed containers if (1) their permit allows them to sell mixed drinks, (2) all other sale conditions meet prior EO requirements, and (3) the sale is consistent with local or municipal open container ordinances or other requirements
- Modifies previous orders ([EO 7G](#), § 3, Mar. 19, 2020; [Department of Consumer Protection \(DCP\) Implementation Order](#), Mar. 19, 2020; [EO 7T](#), § 2, Apr. 2, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Apr. 2, 2020; [EO 7MM](#), § 4, May 12, 2020; [EO 7PP](#), § 5, May 18, 2020; [EO 7ZZ](#), § 5, Jun. 16, 2020)

Alcohol Served with Outdoor Dining

EO 7WW:

- Allows alcohol permittees to serve alcohol with outdoor dining (i.e., food prepared on the premises or at a food truck adjacent to the premises) without complying with certain requirements under existing law, regulation, and practice (e.g., patio or extension of use permit)
- Allows caterer permittees and restaurant permittees for catering establishments to provide outdoor alcohol service with outdoor dining at any location allowed under their permit
- Requires permittees to comply with the following:
 - the outdoor dining requirements under § 2 of EO 7MM
 - any [DECD rules for outdoor dining](#), including social distancing
 - any municipal requirements for outdoor dining and liquor sales

- other existing liquor laws and regulations, including the requirement that they serve only the types of alcohol authorized by their permit
- Prohibits (1) live entertainment, unless it was previously allowed or the permittee obtains permission, and (2) consumer bars
- Limits outdoor service provided by club permittees, to members and their families and guests
- Modifies a previous order ([EO 7MM](#), § 3, May 12, 2020; [EO 7WW](#), § 3, Jun. 4, 2020)

Beer or Wine Coil Cleaning Requirements

EO 7W:

- Exempts premises that normally sell beer or wine for on-premises consumption from the weekly pipeline cleaning requirement unless the permittee is selling growlers for off-premises consumption ([EO 7W](#), § 3, Apr. 9, 2020)

Curbside Pickup of Alcoholic Beverages

EO 7R:

- Allows package store and grocery store beer permittees to provide curbside pickup of alcoholic beverage sales ([EO 7R](#), § 5, Mar. 31, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Mar. 31, 2020)

Food Trucks at Rest Areas

EO 7X:

- Authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner to allow food trucks to operate at interstate highway rest areas until the end of the (1) state's declared emergencies or (2) Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) temporary suspension of commercial activity restrictions in these areas ([FHWA 05-20](#)), whichever is earlier
- Empowers the commissioner to issue any necessary implementing orders ([EO 7X](#), § 5, Apr. 10, 2020; [DOT Implementation Notice](#), Apr. 10, 2020)

Limited Operations for Places that Serve Food or Alcohol

EO 7ZZ:

- Limits eating establishments and places serving alcohol for on-premises consumption to only serving food for off-premises consumption until May 20

- Prohibits indoor dining until June 17
- Prohibits, through July 20, selling alcohol without selling food
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7D](#), § 2, Mar. 16, 2020; [EO 7X](#), § 3, Apr. 10, 2020; [EO 7PP](#), § 1, May 18, 2020; [EO 7ZZ](#), § 4, Jun. 16, 2020)
- **See Business Openings** for modified orders allowing indoor and outdoor dining under certain conditions

Private Club Guest Books

EO 7RR:

- Waives the requirement that club, nonprofit club, and golf country club permittees maintain a guest book with information on members' guests during the declared emergencies ([EO 7RR](#), § 3, May 21, 2020)

Restaurant Payment and Pickup Operations

EO 7N:

- Requires restaurants, eating establishments, and bars selling food for off-premises consumption to limit individuals entering their premises to those picking up and paying for orders
- Requires, to the extent reasonably practical and available, establishments to use touchless or remote payment systems ([EO 7N](#), § 2, Mar. 26, 2020)

Signature Requirement Suspension

EO 7W:

- Suspends the requirement that consumers sign for alcoholic beverages at the curb or upon delivery, provided they are not intoxicated and their age is verified to be 21 or older ([EO 7W](#), § 4, Apr. 9, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Apr. 9, 2020)

Liquor Permits

Approval of Provisional Permits

EO 7W:

- Authorizes the DCP commissioner, instead of the Liquor Control Commission, to issue 90-day provisional liquor permits, their renewals, and any follow-up review ([EO 7W](#), § 6, Apr. 9, 2020)

Extension of 30-Day Credit Period

EO 7S:

- Generally extends, from 30 to 90 days, the maximum period after the delivery date that credit may be extended from a manufacturer, wholesaler, or other permittee to a retailer that is prohibited, by executive order, from serving alcohol for on-premises consumption ([EO 7S](#), § 3, Apr. 1, 2020)

Filing Requirement Waiver

EO 7W:

- Temporarily waives the requirement that a liquor permit be filed with the town clerk to be effective, provided the clerk's office is closed or the hours are so reduced that filing is unreasonable ([EO 7W](#), § 8, Apr. 9, 2020)

Refunding Certain Application Fees

EO 7B:

- Authorizes DCP to cancel a liquor permit and refund the application fee for people and organizations that cancel certain public outings and no longer need the permit ([EO 7B](#), § 4, Mar. 14, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Mar. 16, 2020)

Renewal Date Extension

EO 7W:

- Generally extends by four months all on-premises liquor permits that were active on March 16, 2020, when [EO 7D](#) prohibited on-premises consumption ([EO 7W](#), § 7, Apr. 9, 2020; [DCP Implementation Order](#), Apr. 9, 2020)

Temporary Closures and Permit Return

EO 7W:

- Waives the requirement that liquor permittees that closed due to [EO 7D](#) (1) notify DCP of business closures lasting 60 days or fewer or (2) return the permit to DCP if the business is closed for more than 60 days, provided they intend to reopen after [EO 7D](#) terminates ([EO 7W](#), § 5, Apr. 9, 2020)

Meetings and Proceedings

Common Interest Community Associations

EO 7HH:

- Authorizes condominiums and other common interest community associations, and their boards and committees, to conduct meetings and vote remotely (e.g., by telephone or video conferencing) or by ballot without a meeting, in accordance with procedures in existing law
- Applies despite any prohibition on, or limitation to, this practice in the association's declaration or bylaws ([EO 7HH](#), § 2, May 1, 2020)

Nonstock Corporation Member Meetings

EO 7NN:

- Authorizes nonstock corporation boards of directors to hold member meetings solely by remote communication, subject to guidelines and procedures that the board adopts
- Establishes standards by which members participating in a meeting remotely are deemed present and eligible to vote (e.g., the board must provide them a reasonable opportunity to participate)
- Overrides any contrary provision of law, regulation, or the corporation's governing documents ([EO 7NN](#), § 2, May 13, 2020)

Shareholder Meetings

EO 7I:

- Allows corporation boards of directors to hold shareholder meetings remotely using measures already specified in law, such as verifying participant identity
- Requires boards that hold remote shareholder meetings to make the list of shareholders who can vote available for inspection on a reasonably accessible electronic network starting two business days after providing the meeting notice ([EO 7I](#), § 11, Mar. 21, 2020)

Workers' Compensation

EO 7K:

- Suspends all location or venue requirements, time requirements, statutes of limitations, and deadlines under the workers' compensation laws and certain other related laws (e.g., those providing disability compensation to certain state employees or workers' compensation benefits to volunteer firefighters)

- Suspends, for the Workers' Compensation Commission, all time requirements and deadlines relating to the workers' compensation law and other statutory programs and schemes that the commission administers ([EO 7K](#), § 2, Mar. 23, 2020)

Notarization

DECD Bridge Loan Program

EO 7T:

- Authorizes the DECD commissioner to accept certain nondiscrimination certifications from applicants to the department's [Recovery Bridge Loan](#) program if they are signed under penalty of false statement
- Suspends the requirement that these certifications be submitted as notarized affidavits ([EO 7T](#), § 3, Apr. 2, 2020)

Remote Notarization

EO 7ZZ:

- Allows notarial acts to be performed remotely for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, including any renewal period, and establishes several requirements for these notarizations, including the following:
 - the notary and the signatory must be able to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound
 - a signatory who is not personally known to the notary must present satisfactory identification while communicating with the notary, not merely transmit it before or after the transaction
 - the notary must retain a recording of the complete notarial act for at least 10 years
 - the order suspends all witness requirements for notarizations, except for those concerning a last will and testament
- Extends previous orders' duration ([EO 7K](#), § 3, Mar. 23, 2020; [EO 7Q](#), § 3, Mar. 30, 2020; [EO 7ZZ](#), § 12, Jun. 16, 2020)

Renters

Protections for Residential Renters

EO 7NN:

- Prohibits landlords or their representatives from serving a notice to quit or taking other eviction actions before July 1, 2020, except for serious nuisance
- Establishes a two-month grace period for April rent for tenants, including mobile home residents, by prohibiting landlords from taking eviction action; imposing late fees, interest, or penalties; reporting nonpayment to a credit bureau; or retaliating against tenants, provided the rent is paid within two months after its due date
- Establishes a two-month grace period for May rent if a tenant, by the ninth day after the rent is due, notifies the landlord in writing, including by email, that the tenant has become fully or partially unemployed or experienced significant loss of revenue or increase in expenses due to the pandemic, provided the rent is paid within two months after its due date
- Requires landlords, upon request by certain tenants, such as those experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic, to (1) withdraw from escrow the security deposit amount over one month's rent and (2) apply it toward the rent due in April, May, or June 2020
- Prohibits landlords from demanding that the security deposit be restored before the later of the end of the public health emergency or the rental agreement renewal or extension
- Modifies a previous order ([EO 7X](#), § 1, Apr. 10, 2020; [EO 7NN](#), § 4, May 13, 2020)

Shopping Bags

Plastic Bag Fee

EO 7NN:

- Suspends the 10-cent fee on single-use plastic bags through June 30, 2020
- Requires the revenue services commissioner to issue any necessary implementing order or guidance for businesses
- Extends a previous order's duration ([EO 7N](#), § 4, Mar. 26, 2020; [EO 7NN](#), § 9, May 13, 2020)

Reusable Bags

EO 7NN:

- Prohibits retailers, through June 30, 2020, from requiring employees to bag items in customer-provided reusable bags
- Requires customers using reusable bags to bag their own items if a retail employee refuses to do so
- Extends a previous order's duration ([EO 7N](#), § 5, Mar. 26, 2020; [EO 7NN](#), § 9, May 13, 2020)

Unemployment Benefits

Determination of “Suitable Work”

EO 7UU:

- Temporarily expands eligibility for unemployment benefits by allowing claimants to reject an employment offer as “unsuitable” if, due to COVID-19, the employment poses an unreasonable risk to the health of a household member (current [regulations](#) allow claimants to reject offers that pose an unreasonable risk to their own health)
- Requires the labor commissioner, when determining whether the work offered to a claimant is suitable, to (1) consider the degree of risk to the claimant’s household members due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and (2) find the work unsuitable if there is an unreasonable risk to a household member (by [law](#), claimants who refuse suitable work are generally ineligible for benefits)
- Expanded eligibility applies to submitted claims covering May 17, 2020, through July 25, 2020 ([EO 7UU](#), § 2, Jun. 1, 2020)