



State of Vermont
Department of Public Safety
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To: Vermont Municipal Leaders & Law Enforcement Executives

From: Vermont Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Schirling

Date: March 25, 2020

Re: Gov. Scott's 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' Executive Order

This memorandum serves as guidance for Vermont law-enforcement agencies regarding enforcement of Gov. Phil Scott's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order, announced Tuesday, March 24, and effective at 1700 hours Wednesday, March 25.

Synopsis: We believe Vermonters will do their part to enhance community safety. Initial enforcement should be handled through education and voluntary compliance. Secondary recommended enforcement is to use local regulatory or civil remedies that may be available.

WHAT IS THE ORDER?

Gov. Scott's order directs Vermonters to stay at home, leaving only for essential reasons, critical to health and safety. If leaving the home, Vermonters should adhere to social distancing policies, including remaining 6 feet from others (except for those with whom they share a home).

All businesses and nonprofits not expressly exempted in the order must suspend all in-person business operations. Operations that can be conducted online or by phone, or sales that can be facilitated with curbside pickup or delivery only, may continue.

The order contains exemptions for businesses and entities that provide services or functions deemed critical to public health and safety, along with economic and national security. This includes — but is not limited to — health care operations; retail that serves essential human needs, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores; fuel products and supply; maintenance of critical infrastructure; news media; financial institutions; and transportation and critical manufacturing sectors. Travel to and from these exempt businesses and entities is permitted. For a full list, please review the order [at this link](#).

Please note, leaving the home for exercise and outdoor activity is allowed, provided that people are adhering to appropriate social distancing. The order is in effect until April 15, 2020, though may be extended or shortened as needed.



HOW SHOULD THE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

Vermonters are heeding the governor's mandate. Vermont is a small state whose close-knit residents are known for their sense of community and looking out not only for their own wellbeing but for the welfare, health and safety of their neighbors. Public safety agencies and the public should be partners in this process.

In instances where you observe or are made aware of persons operating in violation of Gov. Scott's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, we recommend speaking with the proprietor, staff, or group providing a reminder of the new requirements and assess voluntary compliance. Civil or regulatory mechanisms, specifically informing and educating those encountered in violation of the order about the mechanisms that may apply, may prove helpful. Again, we expect the vast majority of compliance to be self-regulating.

The executive order does not close roads, nor does it establish roadblocks, checkpoints or the authority to demand identification. You will continue to see motor-vehicle and pedestrian traffic as Vermonters pursue permissible activities outdoors and travel to and from businesses and entities that are continuing to operate under the order. Accordingly, the order does NOT establish cause to initiate a motor vehicle stop, or to investigative detention.

QUESTIONS?

Local law enforcement agencies seeking guidance should contact address Vermont State Police, Col. Matthew T. Birmingham. Municipal officials may contact Commissioner Michael Schirling. Please be patient as our overall operational tempo is substantial at this time.

