

Retail Guidance

March 19, 2020

www.kingcounty.gov/covid

The [March 16 Local Health Officer Order](#) includes the following requirements for retail establishments in effect until March 31, 2020 or later if determined necessary:

1. Until March 31, 2020, or later if determined necessary, all bars, dance clubs, fitness and health clubs, movie theaters, night clubs, and other social and recreational establishments shall be closed.
2. Until March 31, 2020, or later if determined necessary, all restaurants and food service establishments shall cease providing dining room services but may remain open for drive-thru, take-out and delivery services and must adhere to the COVID -19 Public Health – Seattle and King County Guidance for retail businesses and service operators.
3. All other retail, including banks, grocery stores, hardware stores, and pharmacies, should and may remain open provided they observe the COVID-19 prevention measures and adhere to the Seattle and King County Guidance for retail businesses and service operators.

This Guidance provides additional information to the community to support adherence to this Order and a [Proclamation issued by Governor Jay Inslee](#), also on March 16, 2020.

This Guidance provides key information to retail establishments to support compliance with both directives.

1. Social and Recreational Establishment Closures through March 31, 2020

Retail establishments where people congregate for entertainment, social or recreational purposes must close until March 31, 2020 or later if determined necessary.

Examples of this category of retail include:

- Bars
- Dance clubs
- Fitness and health clubs
- Movie theatres
- Night clubs
- Gyms *
- Theaters *
- Bowling alleys *
- Non-tribal card rooms *
- Barbershops *

- Hair/nail salons *
- Tattoo parlors *
- Pool Halls *

* Examples specified in the Governor's Proclamation that were not also included in the Local Health Officer Order.

2. Restaurants and food service establishments: drive-thru, take-out and delivery services only through March 31, 2020 provided they observe the COVID-19 prevention measures.

While the onsite consumption of food or dining room service is prohibited, food establishments who adhere to the COVID -19 prevention measures (below) may remain open for drive-thru, take-out and delivery services.

This applies to establishments such as:

- Food establishments
- Restaurants
- Airport restaurants grab and go *
- Food courts *
- Coffee shops *
- Catered events *
- Clubs *
- Colleges and higher education campus dining halls *

This does not apply to food services provided in:

- Health care facilities
- Shelters
- Schools - child care and day care facilities
- Educational settings

* Examples specified in the Governor's Proclamation that were not also included in the Local Health Officer Order.

3. Grocery stores or other retail establishments that sell grocery items must implement the following safety precautions and the COVID-19 prevention measures listed below.

- Apply the social distancing recommendations to any lines that form inside or outside of the store
- Prohibit self-serve foods, including hot bars, cold bars and buffets.
- Prohibit product sampling
- Appoint a designated sanitation worker at all times to continuously clean and disinfect

frequently touched surfaces and meet the environmental cleaning guidelines set by the [CDC](#).

4. All other retail may remain open provided they observe the COVID-19 prevention measures.

All other retail, other than the social and recreational establishments described above, who adhere to the COVID -19 prevention measures (below) may remain open.

Examples of retail that can remain open:

- Banks
- Grocery stores
- Hardware stores
- Pharmacies
- Convenience Stores *
- Gas Stations *
- Pet Stores *
- Libraries *

* Examples specified in the Governor's Proclamation that were not also included in the Local Health Officer Order.

All retail who remain open must designate an employee / officer for establishing and implementing the COVID-19 prevention measures outlined below.

The COVID-19 prevention measures and mandatory actions for retail establishments:

Based on [CDC guidance](#) and [Governor Inslee's Proclamation](#) these establishments must observe the following COVID-19 prevention measures:

Retail establishments must align with the COVID-19 prevention measures as follows:

- 1. Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees).**
 - Suggestion: Take specific steps to encourage older adults age 60 and above and those with underlying health conditions not to attend. For groceries, banks, and other essential establishments, consider implementing dedicated times exclusively available for highly vulnerable populations.
- 2. Social distancing recommendations must be met (i.e., limit contact of people within 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer).**
 - Suggestion: Establishments should ask themselves: how close will people be and for how long? Ensure that your business is organized in such way to avoid close contact

between people. [Washington Department of Health](#) advises that “being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes” constitutes close contact which could result in exposure.

3. Employees must be screened for coronavirus symptoms each day and excluded if symptomatic.

- Suggestion: Have a plan to screen employees or volunteers every day. [CDC guidelines](#) identify the key symptoms to watch for as fever, cough and shortness of breath.
- Signage should discourage attendance for any person who has these systems.

4. Proper hand hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all attendees and employees.

- Suggestion: Provide ready access to hand sanitizer and hand sanitizer stations and request employees and customers to abide by personal hygiene recommendations. [CDC recommends](#) that people wash their hands often, and if soap and water is not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and to avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

5. Environmental cleaning guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are followed (e.g., clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily or more frequently).

- Suggestion: Ensure a clean and sanitary environment. Have employees disinfect frequently-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails. [CDC](#) provides detailed environmental and disinfection recommendations.

Additional guidance that retail establishments must adhere to:

Based on [CDC guidance](#), retail and service operators should adopt the following practices:

1. Encourage staff who can to telework
2. Consider the following measures to achieve social distances requirement
 - Spacing workers at the worksite
 - Staggering work schedules
 - Decreasing social contacts in the workplace (limit in-person meetings)
 - All break areas must accommodate distancing
 - Reducing the capacity of customers
3. Strive for flexible leave policies for staff who need to stay home due to school/childcare dismissals
4. Place posters and other signage that encourage [staying home when sick](#), [cough and sneeze etiquette](#), and [hand hygiene](#) at the entrance to your establishment and in other nearby areas where they are likely to be seen by customers and clients.
5. Provide disposable wipes to ensure frequently used surfaces are cleaned.

6. Each retail establishments must have a lead employee to ensure compliance with this guidance.

Enforcement:

In King County, public health COVID-19 prevention guidance has been well-accepted, and we believe these new actions will be accepted in the same way to protect our community's health.

The Local Health Order and Statewide Emergency Proclamation by the Governor are enforceable by law. King County will not be actively searching for violations, our focus is on helping people understand the importance social distancing, rather than citations.

If you have specific questions or reports related to this Guidance, please email coronavirus@kingcounty.gov

