

March 22, 2020 at 3:16 PM CDT - Updated Sunday, March 22 at 3:30 PM

Gov. John Bel Edwards has issued a [stay-at-home order](#) for Louisiana in response to COVID-19.

The order [goes into effect at 5 p.m. Monday](#), but Edwards urged state residents to immediately act as though the order is already in place. It will [remain in effect for three weeks - through April 12.](#)

Read the full proclamation [HERE](#).

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has issued a statewide “stay at home” order effective at 5 p.m. Monday, March 23 because of the threat of the novel coronavirus.

In a news conference Sunday, the governor told Louisiana residents to stay at home unless going out for essential tasks including trips to the grocery store and pharmacy. (Source: Governor's Office)

The stay-at-home order means all businesses considered non-essential are to close and workers at those businesses are to stay home.

Today, I am issuing a statewide Stay at Home order that goes into effect at 5 p.m. Monday, March 23, to further fight the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, as the number of confirmed cases is now more than 800.



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

JOHN BEL EDWARDS

Stay at Home Order

To further combat the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, Gov. Edwards issued a Stay at Home Order today--directing all Louisiana residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs.

YOU CAN

- Go to the grocery, convenience or warehouse store
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medical appointments (check with your doctor or provider first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery or drive-thru
- Care for or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, jog and be in nature for exercise — just keep at least six feet between you and others
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian if necessary
- Help someone to get necessary supplies
- Receive deliveries from any business which delivers

YOU SHOULD NOT

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this Order
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out
- Visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility or other residential care facility, except for limited exceptions as provided on the facility websites.

What is the difference between “Stay at Home” and “social distancing”?

Stay at home is a stricter form of social distancing.

Stay at home means:

- Stay home (stay unexposed and do not expose others)
- Only go out for essential services
- Stay six feet or more away from others
- Don't gather in groups



STAY AT HOME ORDER

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **GO TO THE GROCERY STORE** or pharmacy
- **GO TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS** after checking with your healthcare provider first
- **GO TO RESTAURANTS** for take-out, delivery, or drive-thru
- **CARE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND**
- **GO OUTSIDE** (keep six feet between you and others)





STAY AT HOME ORDER

WHAT YOU SHALL NOT DO

- **DON'T GO TO WORK** unless you are providing essential services
- **DON'T VISIT FRIENDS & FAMILY** if there is no urgent need
- **DON'T GET CLOSER THAN SIX FEET** away from others when you go out
- **DON'T GATHER IN GROUPS** of more than 10
- **DON'T VISIT LOVED ONES IN THE HOSPITAL, nursing home, or other residential care facility**



Edwards said people should behave as if they have coronavirus to ensure that the spread of the illness is stopped.

Louisiana's growth rate of COVID-19 cases has been faster than any other state, or even country, Edwards said. He said two weeks ago, Louisiana had no known cases. On Sunday, March 15, Louisiana had 91 confirmed cases and as of today, we have 837 cases.

Louisiana has the third highest number of cases per capita in the U.S., he said. "If we want to flatten the curve, we must take more mitigation measures right now and limit our contact," Edwards said. "There's no other way to do this."

According to the order, an activity is essential if the purpose of the activity is one of the following:

- Obtaining food, medicine, and other similar goods necessary for the individual or a family member of the individual.
- Obtaining non-elective medical care and treatment and other similar vital services for an individual or a family member of the individual.
- **Going to and from an individual's workplace to perform a job function necessary to provide goods or services being sought in Subsections (A) and (B) of this Section, or as otherwise deemed essential worker functions. Guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on what workers are essential is outlined at [https:// www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid19](https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid19).**
- Going to and from the home of a family member.
- Going to and from an individual's place of worship.
- Engaging in outdoor activity, provided individuals maintain a distance of six feet from one another and abide by the 10-person limitation on gathering size established in this proclamation.

The order also closed the following businesses:

- All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, trampoline parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, pool halls, children's play centers, playgrounds, theme parks, any theaters, concert and music halls, adult entertainment venues, racetracks, and other similar businesses.
- All personal care and grooming businesses, including but not limited to, barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, spas, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, and other similar businesses.
- All malls, except for stores in a mall that have a direct outdoor entrance and exit that provide essential services and products as provided by CISA guidelines.

Daycares and early learning can stay open, but must follow directives from the Department of Health and Department of Education.

"We need to make sure, at a minimum, that our healthcare workers can go to work," Edwards said.

The governor also urged residents not to buy groceries for more than one week at a time.

Edwards also addressed said **rumors** that the state was going to **mobilize the National Guard to close the borders are not true.** He **urged people** to get their information from reliable sources and **not spread rumors.**

**US Department of Homeland Security
Memorandum on Identification of **Essential Critical Infrastructure
Workers** During COVID-19 Response**

The 16 critical infrastructure systems listed by **CISA are:**

Chemical Sector
Commercial Facilities Sector
Communications Sector
Critical Manufacturing Sector
Dams Sector
Defense Industrial Base Sector
Emergency Services Sector
Energy Sector
Financial Services Sector
Food and Agriculture Sector
Government Facilities Sector
Healthcare and Public Health Sector
Information Technology Sector
Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector
**Transportation Systems Sector (Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers – Mass
Transit)**
Water and Wastewater Systems Sector