



MEMORANDUM

TO: MPL Clients

FROM: MPL Law Firm, LLP

DATE: March 27, 2020

RE: Governor Wolf's PA Stay at Home Order – COVID-19

Our office wanted to reach out to you with some insight into Governor Wolf's mandated stay at home order, now expanded to include central Pennsylvania counties including York and Lancaster. This will largely be an expansion of the current stay at home order for the Philadelphia and surrounding counties order, so there is information in place to share.

By order announced today, March 27, 2020 at a press conference, Governor Wolf has ordered that Lancaster and York County residents and visitors (including 17 other counties) must stay home except for specific, essential travel starting at 8 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2020 and lasting until Monday, April 6, 2020 (the "**Order**"). We anticipate a subsequent press release to be issued providing more specifics regarding the order. This Order includes regulations in place for the prior counties under a stay at home order. If this changes and the Order is broader or different than the current order for other counties, we will provide an update.

What Does the Order Mean

For most residents, it is not much different than the social distancing already practiced since schools and most businesses have been closed. The Order seeks to restrict residents' movement to only essential matters. According to the Governor's order, that means:

- Tasks essential to maintain health and safety, or the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets), such as obtaining medicine or medical supplies, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves, for their family or household members, or as part of volunteer efforts, or to deliver those services or supplies to others to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking or running if they maintain social distancing.
- To perform work providing essential products and services at a life-sustaining business.

- To care for a family member or pet in another household.
- Any travel related to the provision of or access to the above-mentioned individual activities or life-sustaining business activities.
- Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
- Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
- Travel to return to a place of residence from an outside jurisdiction.
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order.
- Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the commonwealth.

Outdoor Activity - Residents are permitted to go outside, as the Order specifically allows residents to go outside and exercise, including going for walks, runs or hikes – provided that safe social distancing is observed. That means no large crowds and maintaining at least six (6) feet of space between people to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Curfew - As of this time, there is no curfew in the Order.

Travel Permission - At this time, permitted travel as outlined above does not require any special documentation or credentials. Please check back as this may change in the future, but for the time being is not required.

Exemptions from Order

The following operations are exempt:

- Life-sustaining business activities (see full list of life-sustaining businesses at our [Resource Center](#))
- Health care or medical services providers
- Access to life-sustaining services for low-income residents, including food banks
- Access to child care services for employees of life-sustaining businesses that remain open as follows: child care facilities operating under the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning waiver process; group and family child care operating in a residence; and part-day school age programs operating under an exemption from the March 19, 2020 business closure Orders.
- News media

- Law enforcement
- The federal government
- Religious institutions

As with the current mandate, life-sustaining business activities remain exempt. That includes without limitation doctor's offices, banks, laundromats and restaurants that serve takeout only. See the full list of life-sustaining businesses at our [Resource Center](#).

While our office will closed pursuant to Governor Wolf's stay at home and shutdown order, our attorneys will remain available via cell phone and email. If you have any questions, please contact your MPL attorney to discuss the above, or other questions about the effect of COVID-19 on your operations. *Email contacts: Andy Miller (amiller@mpl-law.com); James Sanders (jsanders@mpl-law.com); and Christian Miller (cmiller@mpl-law.com).*