

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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Statement Regarding Questions about Essential vs. Non-Essential Business, Activities, and Travel 4/10/20

Since the Governor first issued his "Shelter in Place" Order on March 19, 2020, and the County issued its similar directive on that same day, many businesses, residents and visitors have reached out to County personnel for their interpretation of what is or is not "essential."

The Governor made it clear that his order is the minimum standard for the people of California to follow regarding staying at home. Counties and Cities are allowed to be more restrictive, but not less. (For example, some local jurisdictions have opted to close all parks, some have imposed curfews, and some have adopted administrative fines for people not wearing face coverings or for people who are engaging in unnecessary travel). The County of El Dorado has opted for the most part to NOT impose any regulations stricter than those contained in the Governor's orders, or to impose fines. The only exception to this has been the clarifications on non-essential travel to short-term occupancies in our highly impacted tourist destination areas.

The County would like to help all of our businesses and residents to interpret the state orders. However, the County does not make the final decisions about what businesses, activities, or travel are essential. We stress that the default position is for you to STAY AT HOME and when you must leave for essential reasons, to perform those activities as near your home as possible, interact as little as possible with others when outside of your home, and practice physical distancing when you do. If your business, activity or travel is not listed on the Governor's order as being essential, it is NOT essential at this time and engaging in it would be a violation of the state order. If parts of your business are essential, and others are not, only do the tasks that are essential. If you wish to do something that is not set forth in the Governor's order that you believe is essential, you should consult the state or your own counsel about whether engaging in that activity would violate the state order.

In the future, if El Dorado County leaders and I determine that for the health and welfare of the people of El Dorado County we need to impose stricter limitations on businesses, activities or travel than that imposed by the state, we will publish that and make it very clear.

Nancy Williams, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer