

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: StoneTapert Insurance Services

Governor Orders All Californians to Stay Home

Late on Thursday, March 19, 2020, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered all Californians to stay home as much as possible until further notice.

This is the most drastic step any governor has taken to combat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). All 40 million residents of California have been affected by this order, with no end date provided.

When justifying his order, Gov. Newsom cited a statistical model that suggested over 50% of Californians could be infected with COVID-19 over an eight-week period. Limiting contact between people will be critical for reducing that potential figure, hence the order.

The order to stay home does not mean people have to always remain indoors. In fact, Californians are encouraged to go outside for fresh air, groceries and other essential services, some of which will remain open during this period. If individuals must leave their homes, they are to stay at least 6 feet away from others.

Some of the businesses that are exempt from the order include banks, gas stations, laundromats, grocery stores and pharmacies. "Essential state and local government functions" will also stay open, such as law enforcement and emergency services, according to the order.

Some restaurants are still offering take-out food, but the majority of bars, restaurants and other entertainment venues are closed.

Essentially, unless the business provides an essential service, it is likely ordered to be closed during this time.

"We will look back at these decisions as pivotal."

- Gov. Newsom

What's next?

It's unclear how this order will affect workers whose businesses are now closed. Many workers are looking toward a potential spending package from the government for relief, but many individuals have more immediate concerns, like affording rent and food.

Employers, whether they have been ordered to close or not, should consider what relief they can offer to their employees during this critical period. As Gov. Newsom suggested, decisions made during this time will be judged critically in the future. If workers aren't treated well now, they may not wish to return to work when the pandemic passes.

Speak with StoneTapert Insurance Services for more resources related to COVID-19. Employers can also visit covid19.ca.gov for more information about this order and other guidance for Californians.

