



House of Representatives

BEE NGUYEN
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 89
18 CAPITOL SQUARE, CLOB 611
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

(404) 656-0314
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EMAIL: BEE.NGUYEN@HOUSE.GA.GOV

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING

COVID-19

Last updated: Thursday, May 21, 2020

As of April 30, 2020, the shelter-in-place order has been lifted for most Georgians. Those who are considered medically fragile are required to shelter-in-place until June 13, 2020.

- **People over the age of 65**
- **People living in a nursing home or long-term care facility**
- **People with chronic lung disease**
- **People with moderate to severe asthma**
- **People with severe heart disease**
- **People who are immunocompromised**
- **People with Class III diabetes or severe obesity**
- **People with diabetes, liver disease, or chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis**

The Georgia Department of Health is now offering COVID-19 testing for all individuals, regardless of whether or not individuals are displaying any symptoms. **To get tested, call the partnership hotline: 706.721.1852.**

The Georgia Legislature will reconvene on June 11, 2020. The state-of-emergency will expired on June 13, 2020.

Please continue to maintain a distance of six feet apart and wear a mask in public when possible.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

As of today, April 28, 2020 at noon, the [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) is reporting 24,551 cases, 4,775 hospitalizations, and 1,025 deaths. The Department of Public Health will update these numbers daily at noon and at 7 PM.

The state has developed a partnership to increase screening and testing. This statewide program can be accessed 24/7 through <https://www.augustahealth.org/ex.../covid-19-virtual-screening> or 706.721.1852.



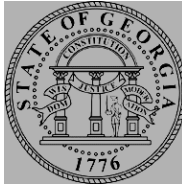
On Friday, April 24, 2020, gyms, fitness facilities, & salons were permitted to re-opened



On Monday, April 27, dine-in restaurants were permitted to re-open



In-person church services are now allowed.



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 Entertainment venues, bars, & concerts are still closed indefinitely.

 Schools will remain closed for the rest of the year.

 The shelter-in-place order will remain in place until April 30, 2020. For those who are considered medically-fragile, the shelter-in-place will remain in place until May 13, 2020.

These orders preempt any local orders. Though we will not be able to implement any stricter city or county ordinances, I highly recommend that we all continue to stay at home. These numbers will certainly increase and the longer we can shelter-in-place, the safer we will be in the long run.

How does this impact unemployment? The Georgia Department of Labor provided these answers:

Q. Will a Georgian who fears for the safety of their lives and the lives of those they may reside with because of this pandemic still be able to obtain and continue to receive unemployment benefits if they refuse to go to work?

A. Yes, based on these conditions as prescribed by federal guidelines:

- *The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis;*
- *A member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;*
- *The individual is providing care for a family member, or a member of the individual's household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;*
- *A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school, or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work;*
- *The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;*
- *The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;*
- *The individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;*
- *The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;*
- *The individual has to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19; or*



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- *The individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency*

Friday, April 10, 2020

On Wednesday, April 1, the Governor issued a statewide mandatory shelter-in-place order. The order went into effect Friday, April 3, 2020 at 6 PM and has been extended until April 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM. The Governor also issued an executive order to close all public preschools, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools for the rest of the year.

"Shelter-in-place" means remaining in your residence and taking every precaution necessary to limit social interaction. A resident or visitor in Georgia are not required to shelter-in-place if they are:

- Engaged in essential services
- Working in critical infrastructure
- Engaging in minimum basic operations
- Performing necessary travel

Essential services is defined as obtaining necessary supplies and services for your household, engaging in activities essential for health and safety of your household, and engaging in outdoor exercise activities so long as you have at least six (6) feet between people who do not live in your household:

- You can go to the grocery store, medical appointments, and the pharmacy
- You can go pick-up food or have food delivered to your house
- You can leave your house to buy supplies to clean or maintain your house
- You can go outside to exercise
- You can also leave your home in an emergency.

⊘ Which businesses and professionals must cease in-person operations and close to the public during this time?

Bars, nightclubs, gyms, fitness centers, bowling alleys, theaters, live performance venues, operations of amusement parks, dine in-services at restaurants and private social clubs

Estheticians, hair designers, body art studios (tattoo parlors), beauty shops and salons, cosmetology schools, hair design schools, barbering schools, esthetics schools, nail care schools, licensed massage therapists.



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Exceptions: Take-out; curbside pick-up; delivery; and dine in services at hospitals, health care facilities, nursing homes, or other long-term care facilities


 There are no limits on physical exercise as long as social distancing is employed. **You can still visit state parks and play sports outside, including golf, though gatherings of more than 10 people are banned unless there's at least six feet between each person;**

 The new statewide rules override the patchwork of restrictions that local governments adopted over the past few weeks. That means more stringent or lenient rules adopted by some cities and counties are no longer in place;

 The order permits residents to visit places of worship as long as social-distancing guidelines and other restrictions are followed;

 The order allows for childcare such as nannies and sitters;

 The mandate specifies that the sale, distribution or transportation of firearms and ammunition is not affected;

 If individuals violate the order, they could face misdemeanor charge. The Governor has just deputized sheriffs to enforce the executive order. Please **DO NOT** call 911 when individuals are violating the order. Please call 311, or report to the Governor's office.

On Thursday, March 19, 2020 City of Atlanta Mayor Lance Bottoms signed an executive order morning to close all restaurants and bars (takeout and delivery are still allowed), gyms, movie theaters, bowling alleys and arcades, live performance venues, and private social clubs, effective tonight at midnight. This remains in place.

As of this morning, Monday, April, 6, 2020, the [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) is reporting 7,314 total cases, 1,332 hospitalizations, and 229 deaths. The total number of tests administered is 31,274. The CDC just issued guidelines that recommend wearing masks any time individuals go outdoors.

COVID HOTLINES:

844.442.2681, or [hotline website](#)
706.721.1852, or [statewide partnership website](#)



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The federal government recommends limiting public gatherings to 10 people and maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart.

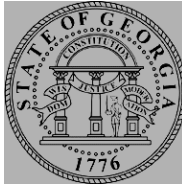
CLOSURES

- **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

- **The Governor issued an executive order to close all public preschools, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools for the remainder of this semester.** Students have transitioned to online learning for both K-12 and colleges and universities.
- **Emory University, Spelman College, Agnes Scott, Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, and Oglethorpe** have transitioned to remote learning for the rest of the year.

- **GOVERNMENT**

- **Atlanta City Hall** is closed until further notice. **Mayor Bottoms signed an executive order to limit public gatherings to 50 people;**
- **City of Atlanta Mayor Lance Bottoms signed an executive order this morning to close all restaurants and bars (takeout and delivery are still allowed), gyms, movie theaters, bowling alleys and arcades, live performance venues, and private social clubs, effective March 19 at midnight;**
- **The Georgia General Assembly** has been suspended indefinitely, but . All members have been instructed to stay at home. The General Assembly is expected to reconvene Wednesday, April 15, 2020 to either extend or revoke the Governor's emergency powers;
- **[The Georgia Supreme Court](#) issued a judicial emergency for all Georgia courts.** Courts will remain open for essential matters, but non-essential matters are suspended. Teleconferencing is encouraged if the court needs to proceed;
- **[DeKalb County Court](#)** is suspending all jury trials and non-essential matters;
- **Fulton County Court** is suspending jury trials and non-essential matters. Any non-essential matters will not be heard by the courts during this period unless they can be conducted via video or teleconferencing;
- **Gwinnett County Court** is suspending all hearings other than those essential hearings for jail court or revocations.
- **The Georgia Presidential Primary originally set for Tuesday, March 24, has been moved to Tuesday, May 19 to coincide with State House & State Senate primary elections.** Early voting will come to a halt and resume closer to the May 19 election date. All active registered voters will receive an application to vote-by-mail. If you do not receive it in the mail, you can request the application for absentee ballot voting through the [Secretary of State's website](#).



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- DeKalb County libraries and Fulton County libraries are closed.
- **[The Georgia Department of Driver's Services](#) will grant a 60-day extension for most IDs and Driver's License with an expiration date between March 14 and June 30, 2020.** You can also apply for a waiver for tags and emissions.
- **SENIOR CENTERS**
 - The DeKalb Lou Walker and Mason Mill multi-purpose senior centers are closed until further notice;
 - The Governor has recommended that all long-term care facilities restrict all visitors, volunteers, and non-essential personnel except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end-of life situations.
- **UTILITIES**
 - **[Georgia Power](#) has temporarily suspended residential disconnections for the next 30 days, beginning tomorrow.** They will reevaluate the policy and time frame as the situation develops;
 - **[Atlanta Gas Light](#) has temporarily suspended disconnections for nonpayment;**
 - **Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms issued an administrative order to halt water service termination for any Watershed Management customer due to non-payment.** This will continue for at least the next 60 days;
 - **DeKalb County's** current water service policy does not allow any water disconnections while a bill is in dispute;
 - **Comcast** is offering essential internet package for free for low-income customers for 60 days;
 - **Fulton & DeKalb magistrate courts have been suspended,** which means a landlord can start the process for evictions, but cannot remove a tenant from their property at this time.
- **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
 - **[The Southern Center for Human Rights](#) has issued a letter of request and recommended with a set of recommendations to keep those who are incarcerated safe, including the following:**
 - Comply with CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health, and NCCHC Guidelines;
 - Eliminate co-pays;
 - Ensure access to soap, tissue, cleaning/sanitizing products, and clean laundry;
 - Ensure transparency in communications with family members and the public;
 - **The Georgia Department of Corrections has suspended visitation through April 10;**
 - Partnered with Securus Technologies and JPay to provide each offender with the following, until further notice:
 - one free fifteen-minute phone call each week beginning March 14, 2020



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- two free e-stamps each week beginning March 17, 2020
- Symptomatic offenders with exposure risk factors will be isolated and tested for COVID-19 per health authority protocols

FOOD RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

- [Atlanta Public Schools](#)
 - All APS students can receive daily free bagged meals from 10 AM to 12 PM, Monday through Friday. A student ID is required to pick-up food from the following locations:
 - Douglass High School
 - Cleveland High School
 - Bunche Middle School
 - Sylvan Middle School
 - Phoenix Academy (formerly known as Crim High School)
 - Beginning Monday, March 23, all APS families can report to one of the above five APS school sites Monday through Friday, from 10 AM to 12 PM to receive a weekly bag of groceries from the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
 - The City of Atlanta's Centers of Hope Afterschool Meal Program will provide dinners and snacks for students between the ages of 5 and 18. Beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, the program will run on a modified schedule and allow students to receive meals from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The meals sites include [City of Atlanta recreation centers](#).
 - Beginning Monday, March 16, APS partner, GOODR, will provide ready-to-eat meals at the following local community sites:
 - Hosea Feed the Hungry: Food Pantry on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 10 AM to 12 PM. An ID is required. 404.755.3353
 - Loaves and Fishes at St. John the Wonderworker Parish: Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 10 AM. 678-373-9433
- [DeKalb County Public Schools](#)
 - DeKalb students can receive a free bagged lunch daily from 10 AM to 12 PM, Monday through Friday. The sites include:
 - Cross Keys High School
 - Sequoyah Middle School
 - Idlewood Elementary School



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- Lithonia High School
 - Clarkston High School
 - Chapel Hill Middle School
 - Bethune Middle School
 - McNair Middle School
- DeKalb County's Department of Parks and Recreations will have snacks available for students between 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.
 - Locations include Gresham Park Recreation, Exchange Intergenerational, Redan Recreation, Tobie Grant, N.H. Scott, Lucious Sanders, Mason Mill, Hamilton, & Midway Recreation
 - Gwinnett County Schools
 - Lunch will be provided for anyone 18 or younger at 70 school sites in the district at no cost. These 70 sites will be open between 11 AM and 1 PM for meal pick-up. In addition, GCPS school buses will make lunches available for pick-up at bus stops near the 70 sites. Information about estimated delivery times at these bus stops will be shared on the GCPS website once they are finalized.
 - [Meals on Wheels](#)
 - DeKalb County's 517 Meals on Wheels clients will continue to be served as normal. The North DeKalb, South DeKalb, DeKalb-Atlanta and East DeKalb (Bruce Street) senior centers will be open to distribute meals to their 559 customers only. Seniors will be able to pick up their meals between 10 AM and 1 PM, Monday through Friday. Senior customers of these centers who do not have transportation should call 770-322-2950 from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.
 - [Atlanta Community Foodbank](#)
 - Atlanta Community Food Bank is working with community partners to assess how they can best support the community. There are currently [50 food pick-up sites](#).
 - [The Giving Kitchen](#)
 - The Giving Kitchen is currently not accepting visitors to their office, but are offering support to food service workers who have been quarantined due to COVID-19.
 - Freelance Artists
 - [C4 Atlanta](#) has shared a resource hub for financial and resource support for freelance artists who need help due to COVID-19;



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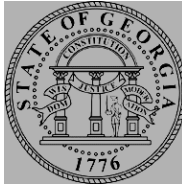
- An artist resource GO-FUND me has been set up to support [Atlanta Artists](#).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES

- **Unemployment Benefits:** The Georgia Department of Labor is suspending in-person requirements for services provided by the agency. **In accordance with Governor Kemp's recommendation, the GDOL is providing online access to unemployment services, partial claim access for employers, and other reemployment services.**

The Governor issued an executive order for unemployment benefits:

- The order extends the length of time in which individuals may receive unemployment benefits from 14 weeks to 26 weeks;
- Individuals who make up-to \$300/week through part-time work will still be eligible to receive the maximum unemployment benefits;
- The order also suspends the work search requirement for individuals;
- On March 10, GDOL is scheduled to offer unemployment benefits for 1099 and gig economy workers;
- The number of Georgians who filed for unemployment claims for the week of March 15 through March 21 increased to 12,140 initial claims. The Department of Labor expects a delay in the process of unemployment benefits. To file for a claim, visit the [Georgia Department of Labor](#).
- **Small Business Loans:** The federal government has approved the Governor's request for federal dollars to provide relief for small businesses in the time of this pandemic. **If you apply for unemployment, you cannot receive an SBA loan.**
- **City of Atlanta:** Mayor Bottoms issued an executive order to provide \$7 million in emergency funding for COVID-19 crisis. **The Mayor has allocated \$1.5 million to support small businesses. Please reach out to the head of Invest Atlanta for more information: eklementich@investatlanta.com;**
- **Snap Benefits**
The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services has extended the renewal of benefits for Food Stamps and TANF due in March, April and May 2020 by six (6) months:
 - Those receiving SNAP benefits will receive the current maximum benefit for their household in March and April, which is \$194 for a household of one;
 - Please visit the [Division of Family and Children Services](#) to apply for SNAP benefits.



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- **Insurance:** The Commissioner of Insurance signed an order to prevent any property and casualty insurance and health insurance providers to cancel existing insurance policies for 60 days, beginning March 20, 2020. [Full order here.](#)

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) has set-up a hotline for COVID-19: 844.442.2681. Please call here FIRST, if you are exhibiting any symptoms. Testing is limited and certain criteria must be met.

TESTING SITES

- **Emory University Hospital, Emory Decatur Hospital, Dekalb Medical Center, Emory University Midtown Hospital:**
 - COVID-19 screening line: 404.712.6843;
 - Phone assessment will take place with nurse to determine next steps;
 - No doctor referral is needed;
 - Call if the following symptoms started within the past two weeks: cough, sore, throat, & fever
- **Grady Hospital**
 - 24/7 COVID-19 Public Health Hotline: 1.866.782.4584;
 - Patients experiencing symptoms or those who been exposed to someone with the virus may come in to be evaluated, but patients must see a physician prior to arriving to Grady. This first appointment with a doctor does not need to take place at Grady.
- **Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center**
 - COVID-19 information line: 402.265.4000. Press 1 to select first option;
 - Virtual consultation is available for a charge: www.wellstaron.org;
 - Does not offer testing
- **Whitefoord, Inc. Clinics**
 - COVID-19 hotline: 470-427-2634 x 123;
 - Clinics include Whitefoord Clinic at Whitefoord Learning Academy, Whitefoord Clinic at King Middle School, and Whitefoord Family Medical Center
- **Georgia Tech Campus**
 - **Abbott Laboratories will offer up-to 1,000 per day at no charge**



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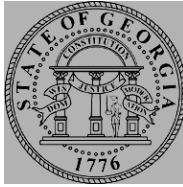
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- Pre-screened online and register: www.CVS.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the [CDC](#) recommends the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe;
- **Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask**
 - CDC now recommends wearing a [cloth facemask](#)
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.**
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. If you are at higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19,**
 - Stock-up on supplies;
 - Take precautions to keep space between you and others;
 - When you go out in public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact, and wash your hands often;
 - Avoid crowds as much as possible;
 - Avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel;
 - Stay at home as much as possible to reduce your risk of being exposed.
- **If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. Follow the [CDC guidelines for testing.](#)**
 - Stay home, except for getting medical care;
 - Avoid public areas: Do not go to work, school, or public areas;



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- Avoid public transportation: Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing , or taxis.
- **Public Gatherings:** The federal government recommends limiting public gatherings to 10 people and maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart.
 - The following sports events have been canceled:
 - The NCAA has canceled the Final Four as well as the rest of the season
 - The MLB has canceled spring training
 - The Master's Golf Tournament has been postponed
 - The following [closures](#) have been issued:
 - **Alliance Theater** has suspended remaining performances for 2019-2020 season
 - **Atlanta Botanical Gardens** is closed through April 30
 - **Atlanta History Center** has canceled all public events through April 30
 - **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** has canceled/postponed all events through April 22
 - **Georgia Aquarium** will be closed, starting March 14
 - **High Museum of Art** is closed indefinitely
 - **Edgewood Mac & Cheese Festival** has been moved to Oct 24, 2020
 - **Statefarm Arena** has canceled and postponed shows until further notice
 - **World of Coca-Cola** has closed for the next two weeks until further notice
 - **Zoo Atlanta** will be closed until the end of March

VOLUNTEER REQUESTS

- **Hagar House** is in need of volunteers between 7 AM and 12 PM. The volunteer will have the key to secure areas (medicine and supply storage) and would be the only person allowed to distribute requested items to the residents (roughly 10 adults and 16 children). Please contact Marlene White: marlene@deaturcooperativeministry.org
- Hosea Feed the Hungry is requesting food donations to keep the food pantries full. Drop-off location is 4779 Mindy Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30315;
- **American Red Cross** is running dangerously low on blood supplies. If you are healthy, please consider donating;



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- [Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital](#) in Albany, Georgia is in crisis. They are using 3,000 disposable masks a day. They are asking volunteers to sew mask for health care providers.