

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 20-25

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO AMEND EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-03 REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY CONCERNING COVID-19, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING THE DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AND MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

WHEREAS: An outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread throughout the world resulting in a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS: On March 11, 2020, by Executive Order 20-03, an emergency was declared in the state as a result of COVID-19, and that emergency is on-going; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the United States and Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: In response to COVID-19, significant measures have been taken by Executive Order and Directives by the Secretary of Health to limit person-to-person contact, restrict gatherings, and suspend businesses that require significant person-to-person interaction; and

WHEREAS: On March 26, 2020, by Executive Order 20-10, amending Executive Order 20-03, I declared the entire State of Arkansas a disaster area in which ingress and egress to and from, the movement of persons within, and the occupancy of premises therein, may be controlled, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 12-75-114(e)(7); and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Act 96 of 1913, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 20-7-101 et seq., and the rules promulgated therefore, the Secretary of Health has the authority to impose such quarantine restrictions and regulations upon commerce and travel by railway, common carriers or any other means, and upon all individuals as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the introduction of communicable disease into the State, or from one place to another within the State; and

WHEREAS: I, as Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of Health, have determined that the public health and disaster emergency resulting from COVID-19 should be renewed beyond the sixty (60) days provided for in Ark. Code Ann. § 12-75-107(b)(2); and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 continues to impact drivers of commercial vehicles transporting essential items of commerce during this emergency, including but not limited to, groceries, pharmacy items, medical equipment, goods, commodities, fuel, poultry, and livestock. 49 C.F.R. Section 390.23 authorizes a state governor to declare a regional emergency during the duration of the emergency conditions, not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the initial declaration of emergency, and to exempt any motor carrier or driver operating a commercial motor vehicle to provide direct assistance in providing emergency relief during an emergency from Parts 390 through 399 of Chapter 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Asa Hutchinson, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-75-101, *et seq.*, do hereby amend Executive Order 20-03 declaring an emergency in the State of Arkansas for the purpose of extending the public health and disaster emergency and declaration of the State of Arkansas as a disaster area resulting from the state-wide impact of COVID-19. The emergency and declaration shall be extended for an additional forty-five (45) days from the date of this order.

FURTHERMORE, in conjunction with the directives of the Secretary of Health, I order the following:

- (1) Executive Order 20-03 and all amendments thereto, not specifically superseded by this order or a prior order, shall remain in effect for the duration of the emergency.
- (2) The directives of this order shall supersede the directives of Executive Order 20-13.
- (3) All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are subject to the directives of the Secretary of Health.
- (4) All businesses, manufacturers, construction companies, and places of worship shall adhere to social distancing protocols issued by the Secretary of Health.
- (5) All travelers from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Orleans and all international locations shall follow the quarantine directives of the Secretary of Health. These locations are identified due to high numbers of COVID-19 cases at the present time. The Secretary of Health may amend the list of quarantine locations as he deems appropriate.
- (6) K-12 schools and extracurricular activities, including athletic events and practices, will remain closed for on-site instruction until such time as the Governor, Secretary of Education, and Secretary of Health deem appropriate.
- (7) State government employees will continue to conduct business through both remote work and on-site work. On-site government work will be limited to employees that are critical to the necessary function of government during a public health emergency and are required to report to work on site.
- (8) Restaurants may continue takeaway and delivery service, adhering to Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations, and they may resume dine-in operations as of May 11, 2020, pursuant to the directives of the Secretary of Health.
- (9) Clubs and Bars shall remain closed until cleared to open by the Secretary of Health.
- (10) Gyms (including fitness centers/clubs, fitness classes, and group fitness studios) may resume operations as of May 4, 2020, pursuant to the directives of the Secretary of Health.
- (11) Casinos and outdoor and indoor entertainment venues shall remain closed to nonessential functions until cleared to open by the Secretary of Health.
- (12) Barbers, Body Art Establishments, Body Art Schools, Cosmetology Establishments and Massage Therapy Clinics/Spas, and Medical Spas may resume operations as of May 6, 2020, pursuant to the directives of the Secretary of Health.

- (13) The directives of the Arkansas Department of Health issued on March 13, 2020, regarding long term health facilities shall remain in effect for the duration of this order or until the Secretary of Health provides an alternative directive.
- (14) Cities and counties taking reasonable measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by imposing curfews and closing city or county owned parks and facilities shall not be interpreted as a quarantine regulation of commerce or travel. Curfews should not prevent citizens of any age from traveling to and from work, acquiring food or essential goods and services, walking pets, or acquiring exercise outdoors while maintaining social distance of at least six (6) feet.
- (15) A state of emergency continues, and a regional emergency is declared pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Section 390.23, as applied to commercial vehicles transporting essential items of commerce during this emergency, including but not limited to, groceries, pharmacy items, medical equipment, goods, commodities, fuel, poultry, and livestock.
- (16) Executive Orders of the Governor issued pursuant Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-75-101, *et seq.*, have the force and effect of law. Additionally, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-101, violation of a directive from the Secretary of Health during this public health emergency is a misdemeanor offense, and upon conviction thereof is punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or by imprisonment not exceeding one (1) month, or both. All law enforcement officers within this state shall enforce the directives of this order and those of the Secretary of Health to preserve the health and safety of all Arkansans during this emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2020.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

[\(https://governor.arkansas.gov/\)](https://governor.arkansas.gov/).

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For Immediate Release

05.05.2020

Governor Hutchinson Extends Public Health Emergency In Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK - Governor Asa Hutchinson has extended Arkansas's COVID-19 public health and disaster emergency for an additional 45 days, he announced at a news conference today.

Governor Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-25 *Friday June 19, 2020* (https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-25_..pdf) to renew the public health and disaster emergency he originally declared on March 11, 2020, and amended on March 26.

"Every industry sector in Arkansas has been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19," Governor Hutchinson said. "The pandemic continues to have a statewide impact on grocery stores, small businesses, pharmacies, hospitals, and restaurants to name a few. It's important that we continue to adequately support and protect our industries and people until the threat is no longer imminent."

The Governor has also issued an updated directive for out-of-state travelers, as detailed in Executive Order 20-25.

Under this new directive, all travelers from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Orleans, and all international locations must follow quarantine directives outlined by the Arkansas Department of Health Secretary Dr. Nate Smith. Governor Hutchinson and Secretary Smith have identified these locations based on the high level of COVID-19 cases in each state or region. The Secretary of Health may amend the list of quarantine locations as the situation progresses.

Find Executive Order 20-25 [HERE \(https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-25_..pdf\)](https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-25_..pdf).

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If you are not a member of the media and have questions or concerns about COVID-19, you can contact the Arkansas Department of Health at 1-800-803-7847 or visit ar.gov/covid (<http://ar.gov/covid>).

###

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(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtJcMg2PM5miz15yYgW0>)



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Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

May 4, 2020

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

On March 26, 2020, a Directive was issued, in conjunction with Executive Order 20-10, which imposed limitations on gatherings of more than ten (10) people to limit the spread of COVID-19. While the Directive and Executive Order 20-10 exempted certain entities from the restrictions, after consultation with the Governor, the Secretary of Health has amended the directive to include the follow steps that must be taken to protect the people of the State of Arkansas from COVID-19.

All businesses, manufacturers, construction companies, and places of worship shall implement the following social distancing protocols:

- a. Limit the number of people who can enter into the facility at any one time to ensure that people in the facility can easily maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another;
- b. If lines form at a facility (inside or outside), facilities shall mark off six-foot increments at a minimum, establishing where individuals should stand to maintain adequate social distancing;
- c. All persons entering a facility must wear a face covering to diminish potential spread from people who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19. A mask is not required for children under 10 years of age.
- d. Provide hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees, and in locations where there is high-frequency employee interaction with members of the public;
- e. Retail businesses shall provide contactless payment systems or provide for disinfecting all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use;
- f. Regularly disinfect any high-touch surfaces;

- g. Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if they have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, and if they have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
- h. Signs must be posted at all building entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 years of age or older or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.

Additionally, the following Directive applies to occupancy of commercial lodgings and short-term rentals, which shall be limited to authorized guests:

Commercial lodgings and short-term rentals, including, but not limited to, hotels, motels, and vacation rentals, shall only permit occupancy for the following authorized guests:

- a. Healthcare professionals;
- b. First responders;
- c. Law enforcement;
- d. State or Federal employees on official business;
- e. National Guard Members on active duty;
- f. Airline crew members;
- g. Patients of hospitals and their families;
- h. Journalists;
- i. Persons unable to return to their home due to COVID-19 travel restrictions;
- j. Arkansas citizens unable to return to their home due to exigent circumstances, such as fire, flood, tornado, or other disaster;
- k. Persons in need of shelter due to domestic violence or homelessness;
- l. Employees of hotels, motels, or other service providers/contractors of a hotel or motel; and
- m. Persons away from their home due to work or work-related travel.
- n. Arkansas residents away from home for non-work related travel.

Nothing in this directive shall prevent lodging operators from offering occupancy to any individual traveling through the state for work-related reasons and needing shelter, including those professions listed above and others that require frequent travel and over-night accommodations, such as truck drivers.

Nothing in this directive shall prevent lodging operators from offering occupancy to an Arkansas resident for reasons not addressed in the Executive Order. While in-state and out-of-state recreational travel is strongly discouraged for Arkansans at this time, circumstances may arise beyond the scope of those in the list above that necessitate Arkansans to seek overnight accommodations in commercial lodgings and short-term rentals.



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Effective Date: May 4, 2020

Directive Regarding Large Outdoor Venues

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

This directive covers outdoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, plays, sporting events, rodeos, races, fundraisers, parades, fairs, livestock shows, auctions, carnivals, and festivals.

Examples of such venues, include theatres, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, auction houses, amusement centers, and fair grounds.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial, or sporting events.

This directive is not intended for gatherings of people in unconfined outdoor spaces, such as parks or athletic fields where physical distancing of at least six (6) feet can be easily achieved.

- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited in number to fifty (50) or fewer.
- An audience of fifty (50) people or fewer is allowed.
- Lines or cues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain a 6-foot distance between members of the audience
- Family groups may sit together but 6 feet should be maintained between groups.
- Every other row seating should be unoccupied to provide for 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Face coverings are required for all persons present, except for children under 10 years of age, who are exempt.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from other persons.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.

- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Hand sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event. Products with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for these products. For a list of EPA-approved emerging pathogen sanitizers: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.



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Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Effective Date: May 18, 2020

Directive Regarding Large Indoor Venues

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

This directive covers indoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, plays, movies, lectures, presentations, conferences, conventions, sporting events, races, fundraisers, trade shows, and festivals.

Examples of such venues include auditoriums, lecture halls, movie theatres, other theatres, museums, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, gymnasiums, auction houses, amusement centers, barns, exhibit halls, conventions centers, and funeral homes. Examples also include recreational facilities, such as bowling alleys and trampoline parks.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial, or sporting events.

This directive is not intended for places of worship, which are addressed under a separate guidance.

This guidance is not intended to address competitive or youth sports, which are addressed under a separate directive.

This guidance is not intended to address casinos. They will be addressed in a separate directive.

- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited in number to fifty (50) or fewer.
- An audience of fifty (50) people or fewer is allowed.
- Lines or cues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain a 6-foot distance between members of the audience
- Family groups may sit together but 6 feet should be maintained between groups.
- Every other row seating should be unoccupied to provide for 6 feet of physical distancing.

- Face coverings are required for all persons present, except for children under 10 years of age, who are exempt.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from other persons.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Hand sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event. Products with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for these products. For a list of EPA-approved emerging pathogen sanitizers: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

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For Immediate Release

05.04.2020

Governor Announces Theaters, Lecture Halls, Other Large Venues Okayed For Limited Reopening

LITTLE ROCK – Indoor venues such as theaters, arenas, stadiums, and auction houses that are designed for large groups may reopen on May 18 on a limited basis, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced at his daily COVID-19 press conference today.

The Arkansas Department of Health issued a directive today that allows the venues to open for audiences of fewer than 50 and that requires strict social distance among performers, contestants, and members of the audience.

“We are attempting to move past the restrictions that have been necessary during this pandemic, but we must do so in a manner that is based on solid data,” Governor Hutchinson said today. “I am confident this measured reopening is the best approach that will allow us to enjoy these entertainment venues again. As we cautiously emerge from this difficult time, we will keep an eye on data for any evidence that we are moving too quickly.”

This directive covers indoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as concerts, plays, movies, lectures, presentations, conferences, conventions, sporting events, races, fundraisers, trade shows, and festivals.

Venues include auditoriums, lecture halls, movie theatres, other theatres, museums, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, gymnasiums, auction houses, amusement centers, barns, exhibit halls, conventions centers, and funeral homes. The list of venues also includes recreational facilities such as bowling alleys and trampoline parks.

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Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial, or sporting events.

This directive is not intended for gatherings of people in unconfined outdoor spaces, such as parks or athletic fields, where physical distancing of at least six feet can be easily achieved. Those may open today, May 4.

Nor is this directive intended for houses of worship, which are addressed under a [separate guidance](https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-guidance-for-faith-based-organizations?fbclid=IwAR2Q7k28K6fxtAQ6SMoZhHCz-UkwUAoO0VEID3d3aQ8ETpc8Ad-CfyGa-JA) (<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-guidance-for-faith-based-organizations?fbclid=IwAR2Q7k28K6fxtAQ6SMoZhHCz-UkwUAoO0VEID3d3aQ8ETpc8Ad-CfyGa-JA>).

The ADH issued this directive today in regard to reopening large venues:

- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited to 50 or fewer.
- The audience is limited to 50 or fewer people.
- Lines or queues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons must be marked or monitored to maintain six feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain six feet between members of the audience.
- Family groups may sit together but maintain six feet between groups.
- Every other row of seating should be unoccupied.
- Face coverings are required except for children younger than 10.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from each other.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising members of the public not to enter if:
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a recent loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising members of the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if:
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, or weakened immunity.
- Hand-sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event.

Find the Arkansas Department of Health directive for large indoor venues [HERE](https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Directive_for_Large_Indoor_Venues-05-04-20.pdf) (https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Directive_for_Large_Indoor_Venues-05-04-20.pdf).

The directive for large outdoor venues from the Arkansas Department of Health can be found [HERE](https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Directive_for_Large_Outdoor_Venues-05-04-20.pdf) (https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Directive_for_Large_Outdoor_Venues-05-04-20.pdf).

CONTACT: Press Shop (press@governor.arkansas.gov (<mailto:press@governor.arkansas.gov>))

If you are not a member of the media and have questions or concerns about COVID-19, you can contact the Arkansas Department of Health at 1-800-803-7847 or visit [ar.gov/COVID](https://govstatus.egov.com/ar-covid-19) (<https://govstatus.egov.com/ar-covid-19>).