



# The State of ALASKA COVID-19 Health Mandate

## Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Health Mandates

### **Health Mandate 009: Personal Care Services & Gatherings Statewide**

Issued March 23. Goes into effect at 5 p.m. March 24, 2020.

See full text at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDHSS/bulletins/282d194>

#### ***Why issue this mandate?***

COVID-19 infections are continuing to spread across the country and Alaska. In an effort to slow the spread of the virus and prevent our health care system from being overwhelmed, Alaska is taking steps now. The purpose of this mandate is to limit all close contacts (people outside of a family unit) to be farther than six feet from each other to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

#### ***How long does this mandate last?***

This order shall take effect March 24, 2020 at 5 p.m. and remain in full force and effect until the Governor of Alaska rescinds or modifies the order.

#### ***What happens if someone doesn't do what this mandate says?***

Businesses violating the order will be subject to civil penalties. Violations may be reported to [investigations@alaska.gov](mailto:investigations@alaska.gov).

#### ***What does this mandate say?***

This mandate says that all businesses, congregations or gatherings within the state of Alaska, where individuals are within six feet of one another, must stop all operations as of 5 p.m. March 24. This does not apply to critical infrastructure industries as outlined in [Attachment A – Alaska Critical Workforce Infrastructure](#).

***How many people can gather in a group under this mandate?***

No gatherings of more than 10 people may take place. If a gathering of less than 10 people does take place, people must be six feet apart from each other. This is in **any setting** outside of an emergency or diagnostic health care setting within a health care facility.

***If my business isn't involved in personal care, can I adjust my workplace configuration and schedule to allow for social distancing of six feet or more?***

Yes. The goal is to reduce physical touch or proximity within six feet unless in an emergency or diagnostic setting within a health care facility. It is especially important to reserve personal protective equipment for use by primary care providers. If your business or operation can strategically plan to follow social distancing guidelines and precautionary cleaning measures, then you can continue to operate.

***What specific businesses are included in this mandate?***

All personal care occupations that require service delivery within six feet of the client, including but not limited to:

- Hair salons
- Day spas and esthetics locations
- Nail salons
- Barber shops
- Tattoo shops
- Body piercing locations
- Massage therapy locations
- Tanning facilities
- Rolwing, reiki, acupuncture, acupressure, and similar services
- Tanning facilities

***Can these services be delivered at home?***

No. The prohibitions in this mandate apply to services that may be delivered in the customer's home or in the home of the licensee.

***Does this mandate prohibit in-person treatment by licensed health care providers—such as chiropractic, physical therapy, naturopathy or prescribed massage therapy?***

Yes. As outlined in [Mandate 5.1](#), all elective, routine, non-urgent or non-emergent in-person health care and personal services are prohibited. The goal is to reduce physical touch or proximity within six feet unless in an emergency or diagnostic setting within a health care facility. It is especially important to reserve personal protective equipment for use by primary care providers. Providers are encouraged to deliver telehealth services as appropriate.

***Can other retail facilities remain open?***

Retail stores can operate if people are six feet apart.

***Does this include health care facilities?***

No. This mandate does not include urgent and emergent health care needs. However, health care facilities must do risk assessment screening prior to entering the facility. See [Attachment A: Alaska Critical Workforce Infrastructure](#) for the definition of health care operations. “Health Care Operations” includes hospitals, clinics, dental emergency services, pharmacies, other health care facilities, home health care services providers, mental health providers, companies and institutions involved in the research and development, manufacture, distribution, warehousing, and supplying of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology therapies, consumer health products, medical devices, diagnostics, equipment, services, or any related and/or ancillary health care services. “Healthcare Operations” also includes veterinary care and health care services provided to animals. “Healthcare Operations” does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

***What other businesses can remain open?***

See [Attachment A – Alaska Critical Workforce Infrastructure](#)