



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. COVID-19 (2)

SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN

WHEREAS, on March 18, pursuant to Section 33-15-17(d), Mississippi Code of 1972, I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the City of Meridian as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary threat posed by COVID-19 has caused critical shortages of health care equipment, personal protective equipment, and possible shortages in hospital beds throughout the state including in The City of Meridian which has the primary medical centers for East Mississippi and West Alabama;

WHEREAS, without additional measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 , health care facilities in The City of Meridian are at significant risk of being overwhelmed;

WHEREAS, based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and after extensive consultation with the State Health Officer, additional measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and to disrupt the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, because of this emergency, certain additional businesses and public amenities need to be temporarily closed to the public;

WHEREAS, further, in addition to businesses closed to the public by this order, other businesses throughout The City of Meridian will need to reduce operation to continue with minimum contact with members of the public and only essential employees, while requiring proper social distancing;

WHEREAS, the uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functions is vital to infrastructure viability, critical to maintain continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security, and is crucial to community resilience, continuity of essential functions and to promote the security and safety of Meridian residents even as the nation limits human interaction and engages in social distancing; and

WHEREAS, there are segments of the workforce that deliver essential service and functions that are essential to maintaining continuity of operations of critical infrastructure including those identified in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s March 19, 2020, "Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response;" and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s guidance explains that "response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic are locally executed, State managed, and federally supported," and that to the extent possible, "jurisdictions should align access and movement control policies related to critical infrastructure workers to lower the burden on workers crossing jurisdictional boundaries:"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Percy Bland, Mayor of the City of Meridian, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and law of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. **Cancel or Delay Gatherings.** In an effort to reduce and limit the spread of COVID-19 in The City of Meridian, and to preserve the health and safety of all members of the public, all gatherings of **10** people or more shall be postponed or cancelled. This applies only to gatherings in The City of Meridian in a single space at the same time where individuals will be in close proximity to one another. It does not apply to normal operations at locations like airports, medical facilities, office buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery stores.
2. **Shelter in Place.** In order to preserve the public health and safety of our citizens, and to lessen the impact on our healthcare system and resources available in serving all citizens in need, especially those at high risk and vulnerable to COVID-19, all individuals within The City of Meridian are under a general stay-at-home order and are directed to stay home ("shelter in place") unless performing an essential life sustaining activity.
3. **Only Life-Sustaining ("Essential") Businesses May Remain Open.** All businesses that are not life-sustaining shall cease operations effective Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., except as needed to conduct "Minimum Basic Operations", as defined in this Order. For the purposes of this Order, Life-Sustaining ("Essential") Businesses are all businesses that allow The City of Meridian residents to Shelter in Place, as follows:
 - a. **CISA List.** All businesses operating in the federal critical infrastructure sectors, as outlined at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>, except as otherwise specified below in this Executive Order;
 - b. **Life-sustaining Retail.** In-person retail businesses that provide life-sustaining goods, as well as businesses that supply life-sustaining retail and their administrative support operations. In addition, the following additional categories of retail are designated as life-sustaining under this Order:
 - i. hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating materials;
 - ii. agricultural supply and equipment stores;
 - iii. medical product supply and equipment stores; and
 - iv. stores that supply first responders and other critical government and healthcare workers.
 - c. **Food, beverage, and agriculture.** Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities.

- d. **Courts Are Open.** Under Mississippi Constitution, Article 3, § 24, and the Mississippi Supreme Court's administrative orders, the courts of The City of Meridian must and shall remain open. This Order is not intended to conflict with or otherwise infringe upon any administrative order issued by any of the Courts within The City of Meridian about the ongoing operations of their respective courts.
- e. **Churches and religious entities including faith-based facilities.** Religious gatherings shall have no more than 10 people and must adhere to the CDC and Mississippi Department of Health guidelines.
- f. **Organizations that provide charitable and social services.** Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or special populations, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities. These organizations have a special responsibility to implement social distancing to the fullest extent possible, and to take all necessary actions to stop the spread of disease, including by stopping-in-person retail operation.
- g. **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.
- h. **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.** Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, farm equipment, construction equipment, boat repair, and related facilities; bicycle repair shops and related facilities; and motorcycle repair shops.
- i. **Financial Services.** Depository institutions, including but not limited to banks and credit unions; Non-depository institutions, including but not limited to consumer, industrial and mortgage loan companies, mortgage loan brokers, originators and processors, deferred deposit, check cashers, and payday lending companies, title pledge lenders, and money transmitters; securities institutions, including but not limited to brokers, agents, advisers and issuers; appraisers, financial markets, bond issuers, or institutions selling financial products to the extent they are providing financial services; and pawnbrokers, to the extent they are providing check-cashing or similar financial services, or to the extent they are selling firearms and ammunition pursuant to Paragraph 9 of this Order.
- j. **Housing, Buildings and Construction.** To ensure residents can remain safe at home, businesses providing construction or maintenance of residential, commercial, or governmental structures, including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, landscaping, moving and relocation services, necessary for sustaining the safety, sanitation and operation of structures.
- k. **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, beverages, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels.
- l. **Laundry services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers.

- m. **Restaurants for consumption off-premises.** Curb side, delivery, and drive-through food and beverage sales may continue; however, all dining rooms shall be closed consistent with the Mississippi State Department of Health recommendations.
- n. **Liquor Stores.** Consistent with recently updated ABC regulations (which are effective until April 30, 2020), liquor store retailers (package stores) may take orders and payment over the telephone or through the internet, and are limited to curb-side delivery only.
- o. **Supplies for Life-Sustaining Businesses.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Life-Sustaining Businesses with the support of materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances, IT and telecommunication equipment; hardware, paint, flat glass; electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent; and firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security.
- p. **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, and other private, public, and commercial transportation providers.
- q. **Home-based care and services.** Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, and other in-home services including meals delivery.
- r. **Day Care Services.** Dependent care businesses to the extent they are operated in support of workers in other essential businesses and services.
- s. **Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services). Professional services firms must implement telecommuting and remote work to the fullest extent possible.
- t. **Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying critical products and services in for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, mineral extraction, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Life-Sustaining Businesses, or products that can be used to treat or prevent COVID-19.
- u. **Hotels and motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services.
- v. **Funeral services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial cemetery, and related services, shall not exceed 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors and shall be subject to appropriate social distancing as described in paragraph 7.

4. **Minimum Basic Operations.** Businesses closed to the public under to this Executive Order shall not be prohibited from conducting Minimum Basic Operations, which are the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business' inventory, preserve the condition of the business' physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll, and employee benefits, facilitate telecommuting, and other related functions.
5. **Telework Permitted.** The prohibition does not apply to virtual or telework operations.
6. **Evictions Suspended.** Evictions within The City of Meridian are suspended, and all state, county and local law enforcement officers in The City of Meridian are directed to cease enforcement of orders of eviction for residential premises. No provision contained within this Order shall be construed as relieving any individual of the obligation to pay rent, to make mortgage payments, or to comply with any other obligation that an individual may have under tenancy or mortgage.
7. **Social Distancing and Hygiene Required.** All businesses permitted to operate must follow, to the fullest extent practicable, social distancing and hygiene guidance from the CDC and Mississippi State Department of Health. Failure to do so is a violation of this Order, and could subject said business to closure or additional penalties as authorized by law. Social distancing and hygiene guidance includes:
 - a. ensuring physical separation of employees and customers by at least six (6) feet when possible;
 - b. ensuring employees practice appropriate hygiene measures, including regular, thorough handwashing or access to hand sanitizer;
 - c. regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touch objects and surfaces;
 - d. permitting employees to work from home when feasible; and
 - e. identifying any sick individuals, including employees, and directing them to leave the premises. Employers are strongly encouraged to offer employees paid leave.
8. **Reminder – other applicable guidance.** All essential businesses are reminded to follow all federal, state and local guidelines, proclamations, ordinances and orders related to COVID-19 response in their operations. Essential businesses are encouraged to telework when and where possible.
9. **Firearms.** Nothing in the Order should be construed to interfere with the lawful sale of firearms and ammunition. Any businesses engaged in the lawful sale of firearms and ammunition must follow social distancing and hygiene guidance from the CDC and Mississippi State Department of Health.
10. **Businesses not listed as “essential” shall temporarily close.** Businesses not listed as essential shall close on April 1, 2020 for 15 days unless they comply with CDC and MSDH guidelines and shall not be open to the general public other than by curbside delivery, drive through, telework from home, or similar means where spread of the COVID-19 virus can be minimized and prevented. Examples of non-essential businesses

include primarily personal care and leisure services that you can put off in the interest of the greater public health, as follows:

- a. All personal care and grooming businesses, including but not limited to, barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, spas, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, and other similar businesses;
- b. All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, trampoline parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, pool halls, children's play centers, playgrounds, theme parks, any theaters, concert and music halls, adult entertainment venues, racetracks, public parks, and other similar businesses;
- c. Retail stores and shopping malls, other than those businesses otherwise deemed essential;
- d. Bars, gyms, dance studios and clubs.

This Executive Order shall be in effect in and for The City of Meridian, Mississippi, from March 31, 2020 at 10 p.m. until April 14, 2020, or until this Executive Order is rescinded by further order or by operation of law. This provision may be extended beyond April 14, 2020 by further order.




PERCY BLAND, III, MAYOR
CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

ATTEST:


BRANDYE LATIMER, CITY CLERK