State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

May 05, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 138

EASING RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL, BUSINESS OPERATIONS, AND MASS GATHERINGS: PHASE 1

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 116 which declared a State of Emergency to coordinate the State's response and protective actions to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") public health emergency and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia, retroactive to March 1, 2020, and the President declared that the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-4487-DR, for the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of North Carolina, the undersigned has issued Executive Order Nos. 116-122, 124-125, 129-131, and 133-136; and

WHEREAS, more than ten thousand people in North Carolina have had laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19, and hundreds of people in North Carolina have died from the disease; and

WHEREAS, hospital administrators and health care providers have expressed concerns that unless the spread of COVID-19 is limited, existing health care facilities may be insufficient to care for those who become sick; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned and the Secretary of Health and Human Services have directed hospitals, physicians' practices, and other health care entities to undertake significant actions as part of North Carolina's emergency response to address the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, slowing and controlling community spread of COVID-19 is critical to ensuring that the state's healthcare facilities remain able to accommodate those who require medical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the continued community spread of COVID-19 within North Carolina requires the state to continue some measures to slow the spread of this virus during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since the issuance of executive orders to slow the spread of COVID-19, North Carolina has "flattened the curve" and prevented a surge or spike in cases across the state, and North Carolina has also increased its capacity for testing, tracing and the availability of personal protective equipment ("PPE"); and

WHEREAS, despite the overall stability in key metrics, North Carolina's daily case counts of COVID-19 continue to increase slightly in the context of increased testing, demonstrating the state must remain vigilant in its work to slow the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the risk of COVID-19 transmission remains high, particularly with regard to indoor settings with an increased likelihood of close contact; and

WHEREAS, people in North Carolina are encouraged to use a cloth face covering to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but some populations may experience increased anxiety and fear of bias and being profiled if wearing face coverings in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, if someone is the target of ethnic or racial intimidation as the result of adhering to the mask provision or as a result of the pandemic, they are encouraged to report the matter to law enforcement or another government entity; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 116 invoked the Emergency Management Act, and authorizes the undersigned to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid in the response to, recovery from, and mitigation against emergencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(2), the undersigned may make, amend, or rescind necessary orders, rules, and regulations within the limits of the authority conferred upon the Governor in the Emergency Management Act; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(3) authorizes and empowers the undersigned to delegate Gubernatorial vested authority under the Emergency Management Act and to provide for the sub-delegation of that authority; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(4) gives the undersigned the authority to "cooperate and coordinate" with the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.12(3)(e), the Division of Emergency Management must coordinate with the State Health Director to revise the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan as conditions change, including making revisions to set "the appropriate conditions for quarantine and isolation in order to prevent the further transmission of disease," and following this coordination, the Emergency Management Director and the State Health Director have recommended that the Governor develop and order the plan and actions identified in this Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.23 in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 75-37 and 75-38, the undersigned may issue a declaration that shall trigger the prohibitions against excessive pricing during states of disaster, states of emergency or abnormal market disruptions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(1), the undersigned may utilize all available state resources as reasonably necessary to cope with an emergency, including the transfer and direction of personnel or functions of state agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(2), the undersigned may take such action and give such directions to state and local law enforcement officers and agencies as

may be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of the Emergency Management Act and with the orders, rules, and regulations made thereunder; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(i), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property of North Carolinians because not all local authorities have enacted such appropriate ordinances or issued such appropriate declarations restricting the operation of businesses and limiting person-to-person contact, thus needed control cannot be imposed locally; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(ii), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property of North Carolinians because some but not all local authorities have taken implementing steps under such ordinances or declarations, if enacted or declared, in order to effectuate control over the emergency that has arisen; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(iii), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property of North Carolinians because the area in which the emergency exists spreads across local jurisdictional boundaries and the legal control measures of the jurisdictions are conflicting or uncoordinated to the extent that efforts to protect life and property are, or unquestionably will be, severely hampered; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(iv), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection of lives and property of North Carolinians because the scale of the emergency is so great that it exceeds the capability of local authorities to cope with it; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c) in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(1) authorizes the undersigned to prohibit and restrict the movement of people in public places; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c) in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(2) authorizes the undersigned to prohibit and restrict the operation of offices, business establishments, and other places to and from which people may travel or at which they may congregate; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c) in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(5) authorizes the undersigned to prohibit and restrict other activities or conditions, the control of which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(1), when the undersigned imposes the prohibitions and restrictions enumerated in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b), the undersigned may amend or rescind the prohibitions and restrictions imposed by local authorities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(2), during a Gubernatorially declared State of Emergency, the undersigned has the power to "give such directions to State and local law enforcement officers and agencies as may be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of this Article."

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Definitions.

In this Executive Order:

1. "Allowable Activities" are defined in Section 2(C) of this Executive Order.

2. "Bars" means establishments that are not eating establishments or restaurants as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 18B-1000(2) and 18B-1000(6) and have a permit to sell alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 18B-1001.

3. "Face Covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth by wearing a cloth covering or mask for the purpose of ensuring the physical health or safety of the wearer or others as defined in Session Law 2020-3 s. 4.3(a). In the context of the COVID-19 emergency, the Face Covering predominantly functions to protect other people more than the wearer.

4. "Home" means someone's house, place of residence, or current place of abode.

5. "Mass Gathering" is defined in Section 6(A) of this Executive Order.

6. "Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission" are defined in Section 2(A) of this Executive Order.

7. "Restaurants" means permitted food establishments, under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-248, and other establishments that both prepare and serve food. This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, cafeterias, food halls, dining halls, food courts, and food kiosks. This includes not only free-standing locations but also locations within other businesses or facilities, including, but not limited to airports, shopping centers, educational institutions, or private or members-only clubs where food and beverages are permitted to be consumed on premises.

8. "Retail Business" means any business in which customers enter a space to purchase goods or services, including but not limited to grocery stores, convenience stores, large-format retail stores, pharmacies, banks, ABC stores, hardware stores, and vehicle dealerships. "Retail Business" also includes retail establishments operated by the State, its political subdivisions, or agencies thereof.

Section 2. Allowable Activities for Individuals Outside the Home.

All individuals currently in the State of North Carolina may undertake Allowable Activities permitted by this Executive Order. Otherwise, individuals are ordered to stay at home.

A. **Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission**. Individuals leaving their residence for Allowable Activities are strongly advised to take the following steps to reduce transmission:

1. Maintain at least six (6) feet social distancing from other individuals, with the exception of family or household members.

2. Wear a cloth Face Covering when leaving home and wear it inside all public settings such as grocery stores, pharmacies, or other retail or public-serving businesses. A Face Covering should also be worn outdoors when you cannot maintain at least six (6) feet distancing from other people with the exception of family or household members. These coverings function to protect other people more than the wearer.

3. Carry hand sanitizer with you when leaving home, and use it frequently.

4. Wash hands using soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds as frequently as possible.

5. Regularly clean high-touch surfaces such as steering wheels, wallets, phones.

6. Stay at home if sick.

B. **High-Risk Individuals**: People who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 continue to be strongly encouraged to stay home and travel only for absolutely essential purposes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") defines high-risk individuals as people 65 years or older, **and people of any age who have serious underlying**

medical conditions including people who are immunocompromised, or with chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, diabetes, with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease.

C. **Allowable Activities**: People may leave their residence for the following Allowable Activities. When engaged in activities outside their home, individuals should, as much as reasonably possible, adhere to the Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission above, and are subject to any applicable Mass Gathering or activity restrictions pursuant to Sections 3 to 7 of this Executive Order.

1. For health and safety. People may leave their homes to engage in activities or perform tasks for the health and safety of themselves, their family or household members, or those who are unable to or should not leave their home (including, but not limited to, pets). For example, and without limitation, people may leave their homes to seek emergency services, obtain medical supplies or medication, or visit a health care professional or veterinarian.

2. To look for and obtain goods and services. People may leave their homes to look for or obtain goods and services from a business or operation that is not closed by a current Executive Order. This authorization does not include attendance as a spectator at a sporting event, concert, or other performance.

3. To engage in outdoor activity. People may leave their homes to engage in outdoor activities unless prohibited by this Executive Order.

4. For work. People may leave their homes to perform work at any business, nonprofit, government, or other organization that is not closed by this Executive Order. For example, and without limitation, people can leave the house for employment, or to serve as a contractor at a for-profit business, a nonprofit organization, a part of government, a single-person business, a sole proprietorship, or any other kind of entity or operation.

5. To look for work. People may leave their homes to seek employment.

6. To take care of others. People may leave their homes to care for or assist a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Executive Order. This includes attending weddings and funerals.

7. To worship or exercise First Amendment rights. People may leave their homes to travel to and from a place of worship or exercise any other rights protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and its North Carolina counterparts.

8. To travel between places of residence. People may leave their homes to return to or to travel between one's place or places of residence. This includes, but is not limited to, child custody or visitation arrangements.

9. To volunteer. People may leave their homes to volunteer with organizations that provide charitable and social services.

10. To attend small outdoor get-togethers. People may travel to another person's home for social purposes, so long as no more than ten (10) people gather and the activity occurs outside.

11. To provide or receive government services. People may leave their homes for governmental services. Nothing in this Executive Order shall prohibit anyone from performing actions for, or receiving services from, the state or any of its political subdivisions, boards, commissions, or agencies. This Executive Order does not apply to the United States government.

D. **Specific Situations**.

1. Homelessness. Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from the order to stay at home, but they are strongly urged to obtain shelter and services that allow them to meet the Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission.

2. Travel permitted for unsafe homes. Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.

3. Public transit. People riding on public transit must comply with the Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission as defined in Subsection 2(A) to the greatest extent feasible.

Section 3. Orders for Businesses and Parks.

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

A. **Most Businesses and Organizations Can Be Open**. All businesses that are not closed under Section 5 may operate. Some businesses must operate under restrictions, as stated in Sections 3, 4, 6, and 7 of this Executive Order.

B. **Requirements Specific to Retail Businesses**.

Retail Businesses that operate during the effective period of this Executive Order must:

1. Limit customer occupancy to not more than 50% of stated fire capacity. Retail Businesses that do not have a stated fire capacity must limit customer occupancy to twelve (12) customers for every one thousand (1000) square feet of the location's total square footage, including the parts of the location that are not accessible to customers.

2. Limit customer occupancy so that customers can stay six (6) feet apart, even if this requires reducing occupancy beneath the 50% limit stated above.

3. Direct customers to stay at least six (6) feet apart from one another and from workers, except at point of sale if applicable.

4. Mark six (6) feet of spacing in lines at point of sale and in other high-traffic areas for customers, such as at deli counters and near high-volume products.

5. Perform frequent and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas with an EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).

6. Provide, whenever available, hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol); systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizer stations; and provide soap and hand drying materials at sinks.

7. Conduct daily symptom screening of workers, using a standard interview questionnaire of symptoms, before workers enter the workplace.

8. Immediately send symptomatic workers home.

9. Have a plan in place for immediately isolating workers from the workplace if symptoms develop.

10. Post signage at the main entrances that reminds people to stay six (6) feet apart for social distancing, requests people who are or who have recently been symptomatic not to enter, and notifies customers of the Retail Business's reduced capacity.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") will make available on its website a sample screening checklist questionnaire and sample signs that may

be used to meet the requirements above. Retail Businesses do not need to use the NCDHHS sample questionnaires and signs to meet the requirements of this Executive Order.

C. **Additional Recommendations Specific to Retail Businesses.**

Retail Businesses that operate during the effective period of this Executive Order are strongly encouraged to do the following:

1. Direct workers to stay at least six (6) feet apart from one another and from customers, to the greatest extent possible.

2. Provide designated times for seniors and other high-risk populations to access services.

3. Develop and use systems that allow for online, email, or telephone ordering, no-contact curbside or drive-through pickup or home delivery, and contact-free checkout.

4. High-volume Retail Businesses, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, are strongly encouraged to take the following additional measures to reduce transmission:

    a. Use acrylic or plastic shields at cash registers.

    b. Clearly mark designated entry and exit points.

    c. Provide assistance with routing through aisles in the store.

5. Take all the additional actions listed in Subsection 3(D) below.

D. **Recommendations for All Businesses (Retail or Other).**

All businesses that operate during the effective period of this Executive Order are strongly encouraged to:

1. Continue to promote telework and limit non-essential travel whenever possible.

2. Promote social distancing by reducing the number of people coming to the office, by providing six (6) feet of distance between desks, and/or by staggering shifts.

3. Limit face-to-face meetings to no more than ten (10) workers.

4. Promote hygiene, including frequent hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer.

5. Recommend workers wear cloth Face Coverings; provide workers with Face Coverings; and provide information on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth Face Coverings. A Face Covering functions to protect other people more than the wearer.

6. Make accommodations for workers who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, for example, by having high-risk workers work in positions that are not public-facing or by allowing teleworking where possible.

7. Encourage sick workers to stay home and provide support to do so with a sick leave policy.

8. Follow the CDC guidance if a worker has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

9. Provide workers with education about COVID-19 prevention strategies, using methods like videos, webinars, or FAQs.

10. Promote information on helplines for workers such as 211 and the Hope4NC Helpline.

E. **Parks and Trails**.

1. All people in North Carolina are encouraged to engage in outdoor activities, so long as they do not form prohibited Mass Gatherings and are engaged in Allowable Activities under this Executive Order. State parks and trails may reopen upon the general Effective Date of this Executive Order. However, because public playground equipment may increase spread of COVID-19, public playgrounds remain closed during the effective phase of this Executive Order, including public playground equipment located in parks.

2. Park operators shall follow the requirements for Retail Businesses listed in Subsection (B) above, and they are strongly encouraged to follow the recommendations for Retail Businesses and the recommendations for all businesses in Subsections (C) and (D) above.

Section 4. Orders for Restricted Business Types.

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

A. **Restaurants**.

1. **Restaurants may remain open if consumption occurs off-premises**. Restaurants may do business only to the extent that consumption of food and beverages occurs off-premises through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Executive Order when the food is provided for carry-out, drive-through, or delivery.

2. **Restaurants should follow social distancing and transmission reduction recommendations**. Restaurants are encouraged to comply with the Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission, including use of Face Coverings, when providing carry-out, drive-through, and delivery services. These coverings function to protect other people, more than the wearer.

3. **Further orders**. The Governor, in consultation with and at the recommendation of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the State Emergency Management Director, and the State Health Director, orders the following limitations on the sale of food and beverages to carry-out, drive-through, and delivery only:

    a. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-20(a), has determined that the seating areas of restaurants and bars constitute an imminent hazard for the spread of COVID-19 and that, to abate the imminent hazard, restaurants must be restricted to carry-out, drive-through, and delivery only and bars must close, and has issued an order of abatement dated May 4, 2020.

    b. The undersigned directs that restaurants are restricted to carry-out, drive-through, and delivery only.

4. **No sit-down service**. Sit-down food or beverage service is prohibited at any kind of businesses, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, gas stations and charitable food distribution sites.

B. **Bars**.

1. Bars are directed to not serve alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption.

2. This Executive Order does not direct the closure of retail beverage venues that provide for the sale of beer, wine, and liquor for off-site consumption only. It also does not require the closure of production operations at breweries, wineries, or distilleries.

3. If the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (the "ABC Commission") identifies other state laws, regulations, and policies that may affect bars, restaurants, and other dining establishments identified in Subsections 4(A)-(B) of this Executive Order, it is directed to

inform the Office of the Governor in writing. Upon written authorization from the Office of the Governor, the ABC Commission may interpret flexibly, modify, or waive those state laws, regulations and policies, as appropriate, and to the maximum extent permitted under applicable state and federal law, to effectuate the purposes of this Executive Order.

C. **Child Care**.

1. Must operate in compliance with NCDHHS guidelines. Child care facilities may be open only if they operate in full compliance with Executive Order No. 130 and all guidelines issued by NCDHHS.

2. Expanding children that may be served. The relevant language in Subsection 2(C) of Executive Order No. 130 is amended and replaced by the following:

> Children that may be served. Child Care Facilities approved by NCDHHS to operate under the Emergency Facility Guidelines shall provide child care only to the following persons:
>
> 1. Children of anyone who performs work on behalf of a business or operation that is not closed by an Executive Order; or
> 2. Children of anyone who is leaving the home to seek employment; or
> 3. Children who are receiving child welfare services; or
> 4. Children who are homeless or who are living in unstable or unsafe living arrangements.

3. Term. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 130 shall remain in effect through 5:00 pm on May 22, 2020.

D. **Day Camps and Programs for Children and Teens**.

1. Must operate in compliance with NCDHHS guidelines. Day camps and programs may operate only if they are in full compliance with the Interim Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Day Camp or Program Settings Serving Children and Teens. Day programs and camps for adults are not covered by this section.

2. No sports or other activities without social distancing. Day camps and programs may not allow sports except for sports where close contact is not required, and day camps may not allow activities where campers would not maintain at least six (6) feet social distancing from one another.

3. Day camps within another business or operation. Day camps and programs operating within a business, facility, or location closed by Subsection 5(B) of this Executive Order or at a school may open for the purpose of the day camp or program, but must otherwise remain closed to the general public. To the extent day camps permit swimming by camp attendees, local health departments may permit the pool's usage for attendees of the day camp, but not for the general public.

4. No overnight camps. Overnight camps and programs for children or adults may not operate.

E. **Schools.**

1. School facilities remain closed for in-person instruction. Consistent with Executive Orders No. 117 and 120, public school facilities are to remain closed as in-person instructional settings for students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

2. School and health officials to continue efforts. NCDHHS, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction ("NCDPI"), and the North Carolina State Board of Education are

directed to continue to work together to maintain and implement measures to provide for the health, nutrition, safety, educational needs, and well-being of children during the school closure period.

3. Graduation and other year-end ceremonies. Local school boards and superintendents will determine whether to conduct graduation and/or other year-end ceremonies. If local school leaders elect to hold graduation ceremonies or similar events, then those gatherings must operate in compliance with Executive Orders and NCDPI/NCDHHS guidelines in effect at the time of the event. Local school leaders are encouraged to engage with students and families to identify the best solutions for their communities. Local plans should include consultation with local public health officials and, where appropriate, local law enforcement.

Section 5. Orders for Businesses to Remain Closed.

A. **Personal Care and Grooming Businesses**.

1. The ability to practice the social distancing necessary to reasonably protect against COVID-19 is significantly reduced in certain establishments where individuals are in extended close proximity or where service personnel are in direct contact with clients. Therefore, personal care and grooming businesses, including but not limited to the following, are ordered to close:

- Barber Shops
- Beauty Salons (including but not limited to waxing and hair removal centers)
- Hair Salons
- Nail Salons/Manicure/Pedicure Providers
- Tattoo Parlors
- Tanning Salons
- Massage Therapists (except that massage therapists may provide medical massage therapy services upon the specific referral of a medical or naturopathic healthcare provider).

B. **Entertainment Facilities Without a Retail or Dining Component**.

1. In addition to the restrictions on Mass Gatherings identified in Section 6 of this Executive Order, entertainment facilities that operate within a confined indoor or outdoor space and do not offer a retail or dining component are ordered to close. Any retail or dining component within an entertainment facility may operate solely for retail or dining, but those components must comply with the restrictions set out in Subsection 4(A) of this Executive Order.

2. Entertainment facilities restricted by this Subsection include, but are not limited to, the following types of business:

- Bingo Parlors, including bingo sites operated by charitable organizations
- Bowling Alleys
- Indoor Exercise Facilities (e.g., gyms, yoga studios, martial arts facilities, indoor trampoline and rock climbing facilities)
- Health Clubs, Fitness Centers, and Gyms
- Indoor/Outdoor Pools
- Live Performance Venues
- Movie Theaters
- Skating Rinks
- Spas, including health spas
- Gaming and business establishments which allow gaming activities (e.g., video poker, gaming, sweepstakes, video games, arcade games, pinball machines or other computer, electronic or mechanical devices played for amusement).

Section 6. Mass Gatherings Prohibited.

A. **Prohibition**. Mass Gatherings are prohibited. "Mass Gathering" means an event or convening that brings together more than ten (10) persons at the same time in a single space, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, conference room, meeting hall, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This includes parades, fairs, and festivals.

Mass Gatherings do not include gatherings for health and safety, to look for and obtain goods and services, for work, for worship, or exercise of First Amendment rights, or for receiving governmental services. A Mass Gathering does not include normal operations at airports, bus and train stations or stops, medical facilities, shopping malls, and shopping centers. However, in these settings, people must follow the Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission as much as possible, and they should circulate within the space so that there is no sustained contact between people.

B. **Dividing one event or convening into multiple sessions.** Nothing in this Executive Order prohibits holding several events or convenings instead of one so that at any time, no more than ten (10) people are gathered in the same space. Organizations that need to hold events or convenings in a single space are encouraged to hold multiple sessions so that no more than ten (10) people are present at a time. In addition, nothing in this Executive Order prohibits holding meetings remotely, and all people in North Carolina are encouraged to hold gatherings electronically so that large groups can meet.

C. **Outdoor meetings if possible.** Because the risk of COVID-19 spread is much greater in an indoor setting, any gatherings of more than ten (10) people that are allowed under Subsection 6(A) shall take place outdoors unless impossible.

D. **Funerals**. Notwithstanding the above, and in an effort to promote human dignity and limit suffering, Mass Gatherings at funerals are permitted for up to fifty (50) people. People meeting at a funeral should observe the Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission to the extent practicable.

E. **Drive-ins**. Events are not prohibited Mass Gatherings if the participants all stay within their cars, such as at a drive-in movie theater.

F. **Households**. A household where more than ten (10) people reside is not a Mass Gathering.

Section 7. Long Term Care.

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

A. **Long Term Care Visitation Limitations**.

1. Long term care facilities shall restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, for example, an end-of-life situation.

2. This restriction does not include essential health care personnel.

3. For purposes of this Subsection 7(A) only, long term care facilities include all of the following:

    a. Skilled nursing facilities;
    b. Adult care homes;
    c. Family care homes;
    d. Mental health group homes; and
    e. Intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

B. **Long Term Care Risk Mitigation Measures**.

1. Scope of this Subsection. This Subsection of this Executive Order places mandatory requirements on skilled nursing facilities. This Subsection strongly encourages the same measures, to the extent possible given constraints on the availability of personal protective equipment, for other kinds of long term care facilities, including adult care homes, family care homes, mental health group homes, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

2. Mitigation measures. Skilled nursing facilities shall:

    a. Remind workers to stay home when they are ill and prevent any workers who are ill from coming to work and/or staying at work.

    b. Screen all workers at the beginning of their shift for fever and respiratory symptoms. This shall include:

        i. Actively taking that worker's temperature.

        ii. Documenting an absence of any shortness of breath, any new cough or changes in cough, and any sore throat. If the worker is ill, the facility must have the worker put on a facemask and leave the workplace.

        iii. Canceling communal dining and all group activities, including internal and external activities.

        iv. Implementing universal use of a facemask for all workers while in the facility, assuming supplies are available.

        v. Actively monitor all residents upon admission, and at least daily, for fever and respiratory symptoms (shortness of breath, new cough or change in cough, and sore throat), and shall continue to monitor residents.

        vi. Notify the local health department immediately about either of the following:

            1. Any resident with new, confirmed, or suspected COVID-19.

            2. A cluster of residents or workers with symptoms of respiratory illness. A "cluster" of residents or workers means three (3) or more people (residents or workers) with new-onset respiratory symptoms in a period of 72 hours.

    c. Other kinds of long term care facilities. Adult care homes, family care homes, mental health group homes, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities are strongly encouraged to follow the mitigation measures listed in Subsections 7(B)(2)(b)(i) through (vi) above, assuming supplies are available.

C. **Effective Date and Duration.** This Section of this Executive Order shall remain in effect unless repealed, replaced, or rescinded by another applicable Executive Order.

Section 8. Local Orders.

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

A. **Effect on local emergency management orders**.

1. Most of the restrictions in this Executive Order are minimum requirements, and local governments can impose greater restrictions. The undersigned recognizes that the impact of COVID-19 has been and will likely continue to be different in different parts of North

Carolina. Urban areas have seen more rapid and significant spread than most rural areas of the state. As such, the undersigned acknowledges that counties and cities may deem it necessary to adopt ordinances and issue state of emergency declarations which impose restrictions or prohibitions to the extent authorized under North Carolina law, such as on the activity of people and businesses, to a greater degree than in this Executive Order. To that end, nothing herein, except where specifically stated below in Subsections A(2) and A(3) of this Section, is intended to limit or prohibit counties and cities in North Carolina from enacting ordinances and issuing state of emergency declarations which impose greater restrictions or prohibitions to the extent authorized under North Carolina law.

2. Local restrictions cannot restrict state or federal government operations. Notwithstanding Subsection 8(A)(1) above, no county or city ordinance or declaration shall have the effect of restricting or prohibiting governmental operations of the State or the United States.

3. Local restrictions cannot set different retail requirements. Notwithstanding Subsection 8(A)(1) above, in an effort to create uniformity across the state for Retail Businesses that may continue to operate, the undersigned amends all local prohibitions and restrictions imposed under any local state of emergency declarations to remove any language that sets a different maximum occupancy standard for Retail Businesses or otherwise directly conflicts with Subsections 3(B)(1)–(2) of this Executive Order. The undersigned also hereby prohibits during the pendency of this Executive Order the adoption of any prohibitions and restrictions under any local state of emergency declarations that set a different maximum occupancy standard for Retail Businesses or otherwise directly conflict with Subsections 3(B)(1)-(2) of this Executive Order.

B. **Mandatory local government operations**.

1. To the extent that local government functions are required under state and federal law, the undersigned directs the appropriate local government agencies and officials to continue to exercise their responsibilities, including but not limited to local county Department of Social Services ("DSS") offices, Health Departments, Registers of Deeds, and other local government functions that are required to protect lives and property.

2. Notwithstanding Subsection 8(B)(1) above, local governments are strongly encouraged to follow the Requirements Specific to Retail Businesses in Subsection 3(B) and Recommendations for Retail Businesses in Subsection 3(C) for functions where members of the public enter a space to receive or use government services. Local governments are also strongly encouraged to follow the Recommendations for All Businesses (Retail or Other) included in Subsection 3(D).

Section 9. Extension of Price Gouging Period.

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.23, the undersigned extends the prohibition against excessive pricing, as provided in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 75-37 and 75-38, from the issuance of Executive Order No. 116 through 5:00 pm on May 22, 2020.

The undersigned further hereby encourages the North Carolina Attorney General to use all resources available to monitor reports of abusive trade practices towards consumers and make readily available opportunities to report to the public any price gouging and unfair or deceptive trade practices under Chapter 75 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Section 10. No Private Right of Action.

This Executive Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of North Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any emergency management worker (as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.60) or any other person.

Section 11. Savings Clause.

If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Executive Order, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are declared to be severable.

Section 12. Distribution.

I hereby order that this Executive Order be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (2) promptly filed with the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the Secretary of State, and the superior court clerks in the counties to which it applies, unless the circumstances of the State of Emergency would prevent or impede such filing; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Executive Order.

Section 13. Enforcement

A. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(2), the provisions of this Executive Order shall be enforced by state and local law enforcement officers.

B. A violation of this Executive Order may be subject to prosecution pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(d), and is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.20A.

C. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to preempt or overrule a court order regarding an individual's conduct (e.g., a Domestic Violence Protection Order or similar orders limiting an individual's access to a particular place).

Section 14. Effective Date

This Executive Order is effective at 5:00 pm on May 8, 2020.

Section 7 of this Executive Order shall remain in effect for the period stated in Subsection 7(C) of this Executive Order. The remainder of this Order shall remain in effect through 5:00 pm on May 22, 2020 unless repealed, replaced, or rescinded by another applicable Executive Order. An Executive Order rescinding the Declaration of the State of Emergency will automatically rescind this Executive Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 5th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

Roy Cooper
Governor

ATTEST:

Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State