

WASHINGTON PARISH

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www.washingtonparishalerts.org

As Parish President of Washington Parish it is important that we support each other during critical times such as we are experiencing. It is important that businesses that qualify as “essential” continue to operate and perform their essential services for our public. To safely achieve this I recommend the following to help stop the spread of COVID-19; further guidance can also be found online at cdc.gov

WHAT TO DO

The basic requirements of social distancing for essential businesses, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, gas stations, and banks, are straightforward:

- maintain at least 6 feet of distance between people
- make hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, or soap and water along with tissues, readily available
- clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly

Businesses should be creative in developing social distancing plans that meet their unique needs, and firm in requiring that employees and patrons abide by them.

PROTECT EMPLOYEE HEALTH

- Even at essential businesses, everyone who can work from home should do so. Only employees who need to be physically present should come to work.
- Make sure that employees do not come to work sick or feel the need to come into work even if they are sick.
- Implement daily screening process before employees come to work.
- Clean break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas frequently.
- Make cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and soap and water with tissues easily available to all employees.

MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO STAY AT LEAST 6 FEET APART

- Have signs outside your store reminding people in line to be at least 6 feet apart, including in register lines.
- Put tape marks 6 feet apart on the floor in the store in register line areas. Put up signs telling customers to use the marks to maintain distance.
- Have a separate order and delivery area or window to keep customers from waiting too long in confined areas together.
- Instruct staff to maintain at least 6 feet distance from customers, except staff may momentarily come closer when necessary to accept payment or deliver goods or services.
- Discourage (but do not ban) more than one family member at a time to shop for family essentials thus to allow everyone as much space as possible to safely navigate aisles.

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PREVENT ANY UNNECESSARY CONTACT

- Encourage people to not bring their own bags.
- Have people give a credit card number by phone in advance for food pickup to avoid swiping cards.
- Encourage customers to use contactless pay options with a smart device if available.
- Consider installing a clear plastic screen between a cashier and the customer checking out items (for instance at a grocery store) if feasible.
- Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

KEEP IT CLEAN

- Put cleaning wipes near shopping carts or shopping baskets and assign an employee to disinfect carts and baskets regularly.
- If possible, have hand sanitizer available at checkout counters and anywhere else inside the store or immediately outside where people have direct interactions.

ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE SICK EMPLOYEES TO STAY

- Employees who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify their supervisor and stay home.
- Sick employees should follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.

I understand through conversation that some businesses have implemented some and even all of these measures. However, I feel it is important to make the extra effort to remind our business just how important it is to protect your employees and our public. I urge all essential businesses to do their part to be compliant with the executive orders set forth by Governor Edwards.

We need every single person in our parish to take control and help stop the spread of this virus. I would like to remind everyone that we will come out on the other side of this crisis. We are a community that comes together in times of need.



Richard N. Thomas JR

April 1, 2020