Understanding Governor Sisolak’s Directive on essential businesses and leisure activities

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, Governor Sisolak has issued a series of orders intended to reduce interactions between Nevadans, and limit places where Nevadans gather and the disease may spread. This Directive builds on previous efforts, implements new guidance from the Governor’s Medical Advisory Team, and clarifies some previous orders to reflect necessary actions that must be taken to combat COVID-19. Below is some general guidance on what this new directive means and how it applies to you.

**Why the new directive?:** Although the vast majority of Nevadans have complied with our social distancing directives, some have actively sought “loopholes” to avoid our shared responsibility in minimizing spread. Additionally, as we get new guidance from our Medical Advisory Team, we implement those suggestions.

**What does this mean for my leisure activities?:** It means that in order for increased social distancing, some things you have typically enjoyed doing you shouldn’t do during this public health crisis. This directive officially clarifies that some places that were previously open, should now be closed, including golf courses and driving ranges, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, skate parks, bocce ball courts, handball courts, horseshoe pits, and pickleball courts.

**Can I still golf?:** No

**What does this mean for certain businesses?:** This directive closes many places people have continued to congregate, like auto or appliance showrooms. Those businesses have all been deemed essential, thus all of the items that they sell can still be purchased. However, you’ll have to use different forms of purchase, like shipping, curbside pickup, or home delivery.

**What if I would like to attend a faith based service?:** During challenging times many people turn to their faith to push through. Places of worship have been encouraged to
hold services via alternative means, like videos, streaming, or broadcast. The people that are performing these services should, of course, do so in a manner that they are practicing social distancing and are encouraged to wear facial coverings. Remember, the best thing we can do right now is to Stay Home for Nevada. Because we are trying to get everyone to stay home, and we have prohibited all gatherings over ten people, this is not yet the time to get people together to celebrate their faith. Right now, nobody should be physically attending in-person worship services, including drive-in and pop-up services. Other innovative and creative ways that faith-based leaders have been using, like live simulcasts, is what’s allowed right now under this directive.

I’ve heard of essential businesses remaining open that aren’t protecting their employees. What are we doing to protect those brave Nevadans?: The Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA for short, is ensuring that all open businesses are keeping their employees safe, adhering to proper social distancing, and keeping their workplaces clean. Call NV OSHA if you’d like to alert them of any unsafe conditions.

I’m thinking about buying a new house. Can I see it?: Yes…but you’ll have to look at pictures, take a virtual tour, and handle all of the paperwork (whenever possible) without seeing anyone in person. For now, “Open Houses” and in-person showings of single and multi-family homes that are occupied by renters are prohibited.

Can I call my barber or stylist to come over?: No, not while this directive is in place. Not only does it put you both at risk of spreading the disease to one another and those that you’re staying at home with, it could also cost them their license!

If I’m providing an essential good or service, what should I do?: Essential businesses that are still providing goods or services need to make sure that foot traffic is kept to a minimum and ensure that social distancing standards are maintained. When going to these places, people need to be spaced out and as far away from each other as possible, especially when a line is forming.

The grocery stores are still necessary and open, but what’s changing?: The changes here are straightforward and involve items that typically require more touching and interaction with the product. Self-serve food stations, salad bars, and unpackaged dry goods – like nuts, seeds, trail mix, dried fruits, etc. – have to close now and remain closed through April 30, 2020. The stores can still pre-package these items themselves and sell them, but they can no longer remain open for self-service.

Please note, additional guidance on grocery stores, distancing, cleaning, etc. can be found HERE.