



NC Chamber Recommendations If Shelter in Place is Ordered

While some states have determined that to shelter-in-place is appropriate for their circumstances, the NC Chamber [advocates](#) that North Carolina can effectively battle COVID-19 without that recourse at this time. Our state's experience in responding to natural disasters and disciplined emergency management has us well positioned to avoid a near-term total shutdown. Undoubtedly, public health and safety sits prominently as our lodestar, but we should also carefully and responsibly balance the importance of maintaining livelihoods and our economy; tripping the main breaker can only be a last resort. That said, should Governor Roy Cooper opt to issue such an order, the NC Chamber would cooperate and assist our stakeholders in navigating its compliance.

The scope of shelter-in-place orders across the country varies widely, but most provide certain exemptions. While some simply state that residents are to stay at home, except those in designated "critical infrastructure sectors," others have provided more clarity. The NC Chamber advocates that, should an order be issued, our state provide as much clarity and direction as possible. North Carolina's leaders should ensure that any order imposed in our state incorporates the federal CISA guidance for both critical sectors and critical workers, and carefully enumerates a myriad of sensible exemptions for the private sector that provide freedom for manufacturers and others who keep essential products and services flowing. The order issued in Ohio is a good example of one that incorporates federal guidance but provides additional clarity.

In addition to the importance of providing clarity on the definition of "essential", the NC Chamber recommends consideration of the following criteria as an equal priority:

- **What metric will be used to determine success and identify a signal toward the end?** This provides needed certainty and unity on an order, otherwise we are simply turning off significant parts of our economy for some, while others continue with business-as-usual.
- **Does it maintain uniformity across the state?** If this is a statewide order, it should preempt the patchwork of county and municipal orders to prevent confusion and inequity.
- **Is it fair?** Does the order disadvantage a company with a concentrated focus in favor of a more diverse entity with only some of its functions on the essential list? For example, an organization producing a variety of products could be deemed essential as a result of having one product on the essential list, while a more specialized business is excluded.
- **Is it sensible?** For example, the order should provide guidance on the following:
 - Curbside and delivery service opportunities for entities that provide goods in the same way those kinds of services appear to be exempted for food and beverage providers,
 - Errands to gather supplies or to care for family members, and
 - Administrative operations, so that those requiring mobility to process payroll, employee benefits, etc., are free to move around.
- **Is the order's definition of "essential" easily amended?**

We are all in this together. Few participate in our state's economy without relying on or supplying others. Clear guidance from any state order will be instrumental in ensuring that unity and protecting our people. North Carolinians will come together, and we will get through this.