



Town of North Reading

Health Department & Public Safety Division

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ORDER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH RESTRICTING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN ESSENTIAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

ISSUED APRIL 6, 2020 & REVISED May 8, 2020

On March 20, 2020, the North Reading Board of Health declared a state of emergency in response to the threat of the spread of COVID-19. Pursuant to this declaration, the Health Department is issuing this Order restricting the number of persons within the physical workplace and facility. Violations may include, but not be limited to civil fines of up to \$1,000.

1. On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued an order identifying certain “Essential Services” that may continue to operate during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, which includes commercial retail stores that supply essential sectors, including grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, pet supply stores, auto supplies and repair, hardware and home improvement, and home appliance retailers.
2. According to the Governor’s order, as well as guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, such establishments are permitted to remain open provided that they adopt measures to reduce COVID-19 exposure to their employees and customers by having appropriate social distancing protocols.
3. Agents of the North Reading Board of Health have recently observed conditions in several retail establishments that evidence a failure to adopt sufficient measures to protect employees and customers from the spread of COVID-19.
4. In accordance with the enforcement authority set forth in the Governor’s order, as well as pursuant to the authority of the Board of Health to protect public health and safety from the spread of disease in the Town of North Reading, as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 31 and 122, the Board of Health hereby issues the following Order relative to retail establishments providing essential services in the Town of North Reading.
5. Essential Services, identified as “other community-based essential functions” as provided in Exhibit A of the Order of the Governor, dated March 23, 2020 are limited to no greater than the following number of customers listed below in their establishment at any given time. These numbers are based on the size of the particular establishment. Curbside pick-up services are encouraged.
6. Walmart & Stop and Shop - 50 customers or less; Ocean State Job Lot - 25 customers or less; Dollar Tree, CVS, Walgreen's, Hardware Stores, Liquor Stores, Convenience Stores and other essential businesses - 10 customers or less.
7. Limiting the number of customers in establishments will help mitigate the spread of the virus and protect essential businesses’ work base.
8. Non-essential portions of essential businesses that cannot maintain adequate social distance requirements, such as personal services, spas, and fitness gyms may not be open.
9. Establishments subject to this order must provide one individual at the main entryway to the establishment during all hours the establishment is open to the public who shall be responsible for keeping count of patrons and preventing entry by greater than the number of customers stated herein.

10. All establishments must provide distancing of six feet between employees, and between customers whenever possible. The aisles in Wal-Mart, Stop and Shop and Ocean State Job Lot are to be labeled with a customer traffic flow pattern for each aisle. The posted label/sign shall read as follows: "please follow recommended customer traffic flow pattern"
11. Restaurants, bars, and other establishments that sell food and beverage products to the public are encouraged to continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery if they follow the social distancing protocols set forth in the Department of Public Health guidance. If customers are required to enter the establishment to pick-up food, there shall be no more than 10 customers in an establishment at any one time. On-Premises consumption of food or drink, including outdoor tables, is prohibited.
12. Establishments shall provide barriers wherever possible, or as determined by the Board of Health including check-out aisles and registers, service counters, and similar, to protect employees and customers. This includes markings to indicate a distance of 6 feet for customers to ensure safe distancing. The Board of Health is recommending that all essential establishment employees wear personal protective equipment (PPE) i.e. a face covering for the mouth and nose.
13. This emergency order shall be effective April 6, 2020 and remain in effect until the Public Health Emergency Declaration issued by the Board of Health has been lifted.

FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Robert F. Bracey

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