



April 21, 2020

Governor Kemp Announces First Steps to Reopening Georgia's Economy

Prepared by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce with information from Governor Kemp's Office.

Yesterday, the offices of Governor Brian Kemp, Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan, and Speaker David Ralston announced Phase I for the reopening of the state's economy. While further details and guidance are forthcoming from the state's leadership, the Georgia Chamber has compiled pertinent information for all businesses to consider as plans are developed to get back to work.

What directives are contained in this new executive order of April 20?

1. Elective surgeries and other medical practices, dental practices, orthodontics practices, physical therapy, ambulatory surgical centers, and any other healthcare services that have elected to cease operations may begin treating patients in accordance with CDC prevention guidelines and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines.
2. Previous executive orders called for the temporary closure of certain businesses including—but not limited to—gyms, rec centers, tattoo parlors, hair salons, barbers and others that require close human

contact. Starting Friday, April 24, these businesses will be allowed to reopen and maintain “minimum basic operations” by following prescribed guidelines.

3. Previous executive orders called for the temporary closure or limited operations of restaurants, theaters, private clubs and other similar businesses that host large gatherings of individuals. Starting Monday, April 27, these businesses will also be allowed to reopen or allow dine-in operations while following the same prescribed guidelines.

Bars and nightclubs are excluded from this executive order and further details pertaining to the types of businesses allowed to reopen will be coming in the days ahead.

For the prescribed guidelines, what is meant by “minimum basic operations,” and other information on that is included in the executive order, [click here to see the Georgia Chamber’s fact sheet](#). You can also read the full text of the executive order [here](#).

[Thursday: Georgia Chamber Conference Call with Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black](#)



This Thursday, April 23 at 3 p.m., the Georgia Chamber will host a call with Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black. Commissioner Black will be joined by other key leaders in the rural community to provide a COVID-19 update and outlook for this key market in Georgia's economy. Moderated by Georgia Chamber President & CEO Chris Clark, these COVID-19 virtual conferences are designed to provide relevant and timely updates, information and insight on statewide management of this global pandemic along with resources to assist Georgians in the road to recovery.

All questions should be submitted IN ADVANCE through sli.do using code #2957 to enter the forum. Please submit your questions for Gary Black by 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Georgia Chamber staff will work through as many as they can over the call, and do appreciate your commitment to leadership as we all work toward economic recovery following this pandemic.

[Click here for the Zoom info for the call.](#)

Three Historic Savannah Buildings Receive Statewide Preservation Awards



Three historic buildings in Savannah received statewide preservation awards from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. The Armstrong-Kessler Mansion and the Berrien House were recognized with the Excellent in Rehabilitation Award, honoring projects that make compatible use of a building through repair, alterations or additions while preserving features of the property that convey its historic value, and the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters was recognized with an Excellence in Restoration Award, which honors projects that depict the form, features and character of a historic building as it appeared at a particular period of time. Congratulations to these three properties!

[Other winners around the state can be viewed here.](#)

Good News



There's a lot going on in the world right now, but there are plenty of reasons to be positive about the future. Check out these good news stories:

- [Savannah area real estate market remains steady](#) despite COVID-19 pandemic
- [Savannah VOICE Festival collaborates with Hospice Savannah](#) to launch 'Voices that Heal'
- Queensborough Bank closes \$54.8 million in PPP loans, [plans to donate a portion of feeds to local food banks](#)
- [International Paper awards two grants](#) to the Salvation Army of Savannah
- City of Savannah debuts [new program to help feed the homeless](#) amid coronavirus pandemic
- [Kia Motors begins producing medical face shields](#) at U.S. plant
- [UPS donating respirator masks](#) to Georgia hospitals

Do you have any positive local stories to share? Send them to Info@SavannahChamber.com with the subject "Positive Stories" and we may choose yours to share with the community!

Guidance and Resources



We will update and add to the links below as new guidance and resources become available. Click here to visit the Chamber's resource page.

- [Coronavirus Digital Toolkit](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Tips for Employees](#)
- [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus Local/State Policy Tracker](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Flyer](#)
- Dial 311 for City of Savannah information
- Dial 211 for help from the United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Dial 1-800-Georgia (436-7442) for State of Georgia information

For more info, please visit the [CDC's Guidance for Businesses page](#).

The Savannah Area Chamber is working hard to provide timely access to business resource information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interpretation and recommendations of the information provided by the Chamber should not replace the consult of professional advisors familiar with your unique business situation. While it is believed that the content of external links is accurate and reliable, accuracy and completeness of information contained herein is not guaranteed. Users of this information accept all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Savannah Area Chamber has no liability to the user.



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