



April 24, 2020

Governor Brian Kemp Issues 'Reviving a Healthy Georgia' Executive Order

On Thursday, Gov. Kemp issued an executive order for 'Reviving a Healthy Georgia' with a rollout plan to reopen sectors of the state's economy in response to COVID-19. The executive order extends the Public Health State of Emergency through May 13 and requires Georgians to continue social distancing by avoiding gatherings of more than ten people and to continue to wear masks in public when possible. It also calls for those 65 and older and those at higher risk for severe illness to continue to shelter in place.

As of today, the order reopens hospitals and medical facilities to resume elective surgeries that are deemed essential. The order also reopens businesses with limited operations including gyms and fitness centers, barbershops, beauty and nail salons, spas, body-art studios, and bowling alleys. Owners must do so with proper protocols in place to protect employees and customers.

The requirements are specific to each type of business, but many include monitoring employees for any signs of illness, limited occupancy, social distancing, and frequent disinfecting, among other conditions.

Beginning at midnight on April 27, restaurants and dining services, private social clubs and theaters may reopen, but must mitigate the exposure of

COVID-19 to customers and workforce as laid out by the Kemp administration. Precautions include but are not limited to those listed below:

- No more than ten patrons per 500 square feet are allowed inside at once.
- Party size is limited to no more than 6 per table.
- All employees will be required to wear masks at all times.
- Employers must train employees on the importance of frequent handwashing, use of hand sanitizers, and avoiding touching their faces.
- Salad bars and buffets are no longer allowed.
- Restaurants must use pre-rolled silverware.
- Items must be removed from self-service drinks, condiments, utensils, and tableware stations and have workers provide those items to patrons.

Bars, nightclubs, and amusement parks will remain closed until further notice from the Governor's office.

[See Gov. Kemp's 'Reviving a Healthy Georgia' executive order here.](#)

[See state-issued guidelines for salons and barbershops here.](#)

[Speaker David Ralson Proposes Start Date for Georgia Legislature](#)



Speaker of the Georgia House David Ralston announced today that the date to resume Georgia's legislative session has been set for June 11, pending approval from the lieutenant governor.

On March 13, the 2020 session was suspended in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic. That decision was made jointly between Speaker Ralston and the Georgia Senate, and after consultation with the leadership of both caucuses in the House.

June 11 was selected as the resumption date to enable the members of the General Assembly to have the most current data available on the revenue and expenses as they make what are expected to be significant changes to the FY21 budget. April's revenue data will not be available until the end of May. A June 11 start date will also give the governor time to consider this data as he sets a revised revenue estimate.

The legislature's priority when session resumes will be to pass a balanced state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The work has begun in the House to examine what the FY21 budget may look like. Over the next couple of weeks, Chairman England will be scheduling subcommittee meetings as part of the preparation.

[Click here to read Speaker Ralston's letter to House members.](#)

[Dr. Scott Atlas Discusses New Stanford University Study on COVID-19](#)



BY DR. SCOTT W. ATLAS, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR to THE HILL; [click here to read this article at TheHill.com.](#)

The tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be entering the containment phase. Tens of thousands of Americans [have died](#), and Americans are now desperate for sensible policymakers who have the courage to ignore the panic and rely on facts. Leaders must examine accumulated data to see what has actually happened, rather than keep emphasizing hypothetical projections; combine that empirical evidence with fundamental principles of biology established for decades; and then thoughtfully restore the country to

function.

Five key facts are being ignored by those calling for continuing the near-total lockdown.

Fact 1: The overwhelming majority of people do not have any significant risk of dying from COVID-19.

The recent [Stanford](#) University antibody study now estimates that the fatality rate if infected is likely 0.1 to 0.2 percent, a risk far lower than previous World Health Organization [estimates](#) that were 20 to 30 times higher and that motivated isolation policies.

In New York City, an epicenter of the pandemic with more than one-third of all U.S. deaths, the rate of [death](#) for people 18 to 45 years old is 0.01 percent, or 11 per 100,000 in the population. On the other hand, people aged 75 and over have a death rate 80 times that. For people under 18 years old, the rate of death is zero per 100,000.

Of all fatal cases in New York [state](#), two-thirds were in patients over 70 years of age; more than 95 percent were over 50 years of age; and about 90 percent of all fatal cases had an underlying illness. Of 6,570 confirmed COVID-19 deaths fully investigated for underlying conditions to date, 6,520, or [99.2 percent](#), had an underlying illness. If you do not already have an underlying chronic condition, your chances of dying are small, regardless of age. And young adults and children in normal health have almost no risk of any serious illness from COVID-19.

Fact 2: Protecting older, at-risk people eliminates hospital overcrowding.

We can learn about hospital utilization from [data from New York City](#), the hotbed of COVID-19 with more than 34,600 hospitalizations to date. For those under 18 years of age, hospitalization from the virus is 0.01 percent per 100,000 people; for those 18 to 44 years old, hospitalization is 0.1 percent per 100,000. Even for people ages 65 to 74, only 1.7 percent were hospitalized. Of 4,103 confirmed COVID-19 [patients](#) with symptoms bad enough to seek medical care, Dr. [Leora Horwitz](#) of NYU Medical Center concluded "age is far and away the strongest risk factor for hospitalization."

Even early [WHO](#) reports noted that 80 percent of all cases were mild, and more recent studies show a far more widespread rate of infection and lower rate of serious illness. Half of all people testing positive for infection have no symptoms at all. The vast majority of younger, otherwise healthy people do not need significant medical care if they catch this infection.

Fact 3: Vital population immunity is prevented by total isolation policies, prolonging the problem.

We know from decades of medical science that infection itself allows people to generate an immune response — antibodies — so that the infection is controlled throughout the population by “[herd immunity](#).” Indeed, that is the main purpose of widespread immunization in other viral diseases — to assist with population immunity. In this virus, we know that medical care is not even necessary for the vast [majority](#) of people who are infected. It is so mild that half of infected people are asymptomatic, shown in early data from the [Diamond Princess](#) ship, and then in [Iceland](#) and [Italy](#). That has been falsely portrayed as a problem requiring mass isolation. In fact, infected people without severe illness are the immediately available vehicle for establishing widespread immunity. By transmitting the virus to others in the low-risk group who then generate antibodies, they block the network of pathways toward the most vulnerable people, ultimately ending the threat. Extending whole-population isolation would directly prevent that widespread immunity from developing.

Fact 4: People are dying because other medical care is not getting done due to hypothetical projections.

Critical health care for millions of Americans is being ignored and people are dying to accommodate “potential” COVID-19 patients and for fear of spreading the disease.

Most [states](#) and many hospitals abruptly stopped “nonessential” procedures and [surgery](#). That prevented diagnoses of life-threatening diseases, like cancer screening, biopsies of tumors now undiscovered and potentially deadly brain aneurysms. Treatments, including emergency care, for the most serious illnesses were also missed. Cancer patients deferred [chemotherapy](#). An estimated 80 percent of brain surgery cases were skipped. Acute stroke and heart attack

patients missed their only chances for treatment, some dying and many now facing permanent disability.

Fact 5: We have a clearly defined population at risk who can be protected with targeted measures.

The overwhelming evidence all over the world consistently shows that a clearly defined group — older people and others with underlying conditions — is more likely to have a serious illness requiring hospitalization and more likely to die from COVID-19. Knowing that, it is a commonsense, achievable goal to target isolation policy to that group, including strictly monitoring those who interact with them. Nursing home residents, the highest risk, should be the most straightforward to systematically protect from infected people, given that they already live in confined places with highly restricted entry.

The appropriate policy, based on fundamental biology and the evidence already in hand, is to institute a more focused [strategy](#) like some outlined in the first place: Strictly protect the known vulnerable, self-isolate the mildly sick and open most workplaces and small businesses with some prudent large-group precautions. This would allow the essential socializing to generate immunity among those with minimal risk of serious consequence, while saving lives, preventing overcrowding of hospitals and limiting the enormous harms compounded by continued total isolation. Let's stop underemphasizing empirical evidence while instead doubling down on hypothetical models. Facts matter.

Scott W. Atlas, MD, is the David and Joan Traitel Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and the former chief of neuroradiology at Stanford University Medical Center.

[Savannah SCORE Offering Free Webinar on Starting a Business](#)



The Savannah chapter of SCORE is offering a free 'Business Reality Check' live webinar, where attendees will learn from a senior SCORE business mentor how to successfully start and run their own business. The webinar will cover:

- The reality of starting and growing a successful business
- The difference between a good business idea and a bad one
- Traits of a successful entrepreneur
- Questions to ask yourself if you want to be a successful business owner
- Business ownership myths and realities
- Why businesses fail and how to avoid the pitfalls

The webinar will be hosted Wednesday, April 29 at 10 a.m. [Click here to register.](#)

Savannah SCORE is continuing to meet with clients virtually during social distancing. To arrange for a free business mentoring session with an experienced Savannah SCORE mentor, visit Savannah.SCORE.org or call 912-652-4335.

Upcoming Webinars/Virtual Town Halls



Friday, April 24: U.S. Chamber Virtual Town Hall with Inc
Please join the U.S. Chamber and Inc. for the next virtual National Small Business Town Hall tomorrow, April 24, at 12 p.m. U.S. Chamber chief policy officer Neil Bradley and Inc. editor-at-large Kimberly Weisul will be discussing the details of the newest aid package and what the small business community needs to know. Click here to register now.

[Register for the April 24 webinar here.](#) Please note that space is limited, and advance registration is required.

Monday, April 27: U.S. Chamber Foundation Path Forward Program

Join the U.S. Chamber Foundation this Monday, April 27 at 3 p.m. for the next Path Forward broadcast—a dialogue led by U.S. Chamber president Suzanne Clark on helping America prepare to restart the economy and get millions of people back to work. This installment of Path Forward will feature

conversations about the current and anticipated transit barriers to returning to work. As a reminder, the live program airs twice a week—Mondays and Thursdays at 3 p.m.—and the recordings of previous programs are available on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and at [USChamberFoundation.org](#).

[Register for the April 27 program here.](#)

Monday, April 27: SBA Presents GA COVID-19 Recovery, Relief & Response Live Stream

Join the live-streamed conversation on Monday, April 27 at 5 p.m. to learn what resources are available to you and your Georgia community. The latest updates and recovery efforts will be shared. We look forward to connecting with you on Monday!

Please log in or dial in at 5 p.m. Monday, April 27 to join the conversation with:

- Ashley D. Bell, Regional Director, U.S Small Business Administration
- U.S. Senator David Perdue of Georgia
- Mr. Chris Clark, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Live Stream:

<https://vekeo.com/smallbusinessadministration/> Or dial in: 833-380-0652

Disclaimer: The call is off-the-record and not reportable.

[Tuesday, April 28: Free "Leading Change" Workshop by Dale Carnegie Training](#)

From 8:15-9:30 a.m. on April 28, Dale Carnegie Training is offering a free workshop on leading change for business leaders. The world is changing at an unprecedented pace; nothing is static, certain, or predictable. Many business leaders are struggling to adjust to this new normal. Join this workshop on training leaders who embrace can change themselves, and who have the right mindset, skills and capabilities to get others on-board with important change initiatives.

[Reaister for the April 28 workshop here.](#)

Wednesday, April 29: Free "Building Resilience & Handling Stress In Uncertain Times" Workshop by Dale Carnegie Training

From 9:15-10:45 a.m. April 29, Dale Carnegie Training will host a live online workshop session designed to bring leaders together to learn about and reflect on new research from Dale Carnegie Training and others on workplace resilience. This session is for leaders who hope to accelerate performance and capitalize on change and uncertainty, creating a resilient organization that can successfully “bounce back” and grow from adverse experiences like such as market shocks, governmental instability and pandemics.

[Click here to register for the April 29 session.](#)

Wednesday, April 29: Ask Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity Anything

On April 29 at 2 p.m., the Atlanta Fed’s Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity will host Ask Us Anything: Initial Observations and Responses to COVID-19. The conversational webinar will answer questions and provide an update on the first weeks of the pandemic and responses from the workforce development system. Attendees will be joined by Kenyatta Lovett, assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor; Kermit Kaleba, managing director of policy at the National Skills Coalition; and Julie Squire, policy director and general counsel at the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

[Register for the April 29 webinar 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:

- [Local dealership donates N95 masks](#) to Hospice Savannah
- The Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum has [prepared a number of interactive online exhibits](#) so students can explore the museum's offerings from home
- [Local firm donates Chromebooks](#) to Savannah-Chatham students for distance learning
- South Coast Contracting Group sponsors all remaining 2020 events for the Ronald McDonald House, including the [virtual Red Shoes Run 5K](#).
- Spartina 449 [donating 20% of your purchase to another local retailer of your choice](#) April 13-30
- South Coast Contracting Group and Vitali MedSpa, along with friends and family, [celebrated an individual with special needs' 30th birthday with a caravan birthday parade](#). Happy 30th birthday to Anthony Alfonso from everyone at the Chamber!
- Danny Meyer is [auctioning rare wines from his famed restaurants](#) to raise money for employees affected by coronavirus
- Female rowers in Venice are [delivering groceries to the elderly by gondola](#)
- The Savannah Ballet Theatre is offering [free virtual dance and fitness classes every week day from April 27 to May 1](#)

Do you have any positive local stories to share? Send them to SBozeman@VisitSavannah.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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