



April 30, 2020

Governor Kemp to Lift Statewide Shelter in Place Order for Most Georgians Tomorrow

Source: [The Office of the Governor](#) and [the AJC](#)

Today, Governor Brian Kemp signed [Executive Order 4.30.20.01](#), which effectively ends the shelter in place order for most Georgians as of tomorrow, although it requires elderly and "medically fragile" Georgians to continue to shelter in place through June 12, and encourages Georgians to remain at home as much as possible, as well as to practice social distancing and the wearing of masks when in public.

*For further clarification on who should continue to shelter in place, please refer to Section III of Executive Order 04.23.20.02. [That order can be found here.](#)

Today's order also extends Georgia's public health state of emergency through June 12 in order to continue enhanced testing across Georgia, ramp up contact tracing, and maintain effective emergency response operations in every region.

"The health and well-being of Georgians are my top priorities, and my

decisions are based on data and advice from health officials. I will do what is necessary to protect the lives--and livelihoods--of our people," said Governor Kemp. "In accordance with our executive orders, businesses across the Peach State must continue to operate with strict social distancing and sanitation rules to keep customers and employees safe through May 13, 2020. Those rules vary by business type for a measured, health-driven approach."

[Click here to read the governor's statement on the order.](#)

[Click here to read more about the order by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.](#)

DNR Commissioner Extends Administrative Order Regarding Beaches

Source: [Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources](#)



In accordance with and in response to Governor Kemp's executive order extending Georgia's "shelter in place" mandate in response to COVID-19, Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Mark Williams has extended his Administrative Order on the use of beaches.

The prohibition on the use of chairs, tents and umbrellas on Georgia's beaches seaward of the ordinary high-water mark will continue through 11:59 p.m. May 6.

[Click here to read the administrative order.](#)

Financial Research Website Names Georgia's Economy the Best Positioned to Weather Impacts of COVID-19

Source: [WalletHub](#)



According to the financial researchers at WalletHub, some states are better positioned economically to deal with the coronavirus pandemic than others. To find out the states whose economies are most exposed to COVID-19, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 10 unique metrics. The data set ranges from share of employment from small businesses to share of workers with access to paid sick leave and increase in unemployment insurance claims.

This research found that Georgia's economy is the best positioned to recover from the pandemic than any other state or Washington, D.C.

[Click here to read the main findings, detailed findings, and read about WalletHub's methodology.](#)

[Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council Announces Fund to Support Minority Businesses Impacted by COVID-19](#)



Source: [Savannah CEO](#)

The Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council, Georgia's leading small business development and supplier diversity advocacy organization, has established a Disaster Relief Certification Fund.

GMSDC is responding to this challenging time by reintroducing GMSDC Cares, the organization's advocacy work to assist the business community impacted by economic hardship. As part of GMSDC Cares, the Disaster Relief Certification Fund will be used to help Minority Business Enterprises retain their certification and remain active with GMSDC. Due to the generosity of The Coca-Cola Company and Truist, GMSDC can help make an immediate impact on minority businesses.

This fund will be available Friday, May 1. Funding requests will be open to current certified Minority Business Enterprises with revenues less than \$5 million applying for recertification. For more information, please visit the GMSDC website at gmsdc.org.

[Georgia Chamber Mobilizes Resiliency and Recovery Initiative](#)



Source: [Savannah CEO](#)

The [Georgia Chamber](#) announced the formation of its Resiliency and Recovery Task Force led by top businesses from across Georgia. The task force is leading the charge for economic recovery in the state, leveraging partners in the private and public sector to develop strategies, provide insights and bolster growth and sustainability of the New Georgia Economy (NGE), post COVID-19.

The Task Force will be co-chaired by [Teresa White](#), President, AFLAC U.S., [Ben Tarbutton](#), President of Sandersville Railroad and [Sonny Deriso](#), Chairman of the Board, Atlantic Capital Bank. The initiative is an inclusive endeavor to bring together leading voices from every region and business sector in the state. Savannah Area Chamber President Bill Hubbard has been asked to participate, and the complete list of task force members should be released soon.

The Georgia Chamber's task force initiative comes on the heels of the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Council of State Chambers \(COSC\)](#) announcement last week creating a national economic recovery effort. The Georgia Chamber is an active participating member of this initiative that includes representatives from all 50 states, mirroring the coordination between the governors and the federal government.

[Georgia CEO Invites All Georgia Business Leaders to a Conversation on Leadership with President & CEO of Fortune Magazine](#)



Georgia CEO and goBeyondProfit are pleased to invite all Georgia business leaders to their CEO forum on Zoom, featuring Alan Murray, president & CEO of Fortune Magazine, and Frank Blake, retired chairman & CEO of The Home Depot.

Join Georgia CEO, Murray and Blake May 5 at 11 a.m. to talk about leadership of the future! [RSVP here for Zoom event details.](#)

[Skift 2020 Hospitality Recovery Survey](#)



Do you work in accommodations? Skift would love to hear your insights via their survey [here](#).

[Update Your Business Operating Hours and Procedures on Savannah Chamber, Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee Websites](#)



With businesses having to adjust and adapt hours and operation procedures in our current COVID-19 reality, your Chamber, Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee are here to provide continual support throughout this journey. Please [fill out this form](#) to let us know the current status of your business and/or if your business has adjusted your offerings or are adopting COVID-19 safety protocols. Please keep us updated so that we can share that information across all our digital channels.

[Click here](#) to submit.

[Paycheck Protection Program Application Process Resumes](#)



The Small Business Administration will resume accepting Paycheck Protection Program loan applications from approved lenders on behalf of any eligible borrower.

Last Friday President Trump signed into law the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which provides critical additional funding for American workers and small businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

For more information on the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, [click here](#).

[Gov. Kemp's Office Announces 48 Additional COVID-19 Testing Sites Online in Georgia](#)



The Georgia Department of Health announced 48 additional sites for COVID-19 testing in Georgia. Those in the District 9-1 Coastal Health District (Savannah).

District 9-1 Coastal Health District:

- Glynn County Health Department
2747 4th St., Brunswick, GA 31520
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Jennifer Ross Soccer Complex
7221 Sallie Mood Dr., Savannah, GA 31406
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Visits to these sites are by referral or appointment only, and Georgians should contact their medical provider, local public health officials. For more information [click here](#).

[The Georgia Department of Economic Development offers Industry Specific FAQ on Gov. Kemp's Reviving a Healthy Georgia Order](#)



Source: Georgia.org

Governor Kemp and the Georgia Department of Labor issued guidance addressing unemployment options and encouraging businesses to work with employees to determine a successful and safe return to work plan.

In all jurisdictions, theaters and restaurant dine-in services will be allowed--but not required--to reopen, subject to social distancing and sanitation directions. Additional industry-specific guidance is available [here](#).

Please read these guidelines in their entirety to understand how your business is impacted by this order as well as to help you make a self-determination as to whether your business is “critical infrastructure” and how best to proceed.

For the Georgia Department of Economic Development’s list of Frequently Ask Questions on Governor Kemp’s statewide order, [click here](#).

GDEcD COVID-19 Resources:

- For arts and nonprofit resources, [click here](#).
- For film and entertainment resources, [click here](#).
- For small business resources, [click here](#).
- For tourism and travel information, [click here](#).
- For information on how manufacturers and distributors can help fight COVID-19, [click here](#).
- For general GDEcD updates on COVID-19, [click here](#).
- For frequently asked questions regarding Georgia businesses, [click 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:

- “Believe in Savannah” [t-shirt campaign raising money](#) for America’s Second Harvest through May 8
- Savannah Bananas [announce July 1 season](#) start
- [Water monitoring project](#) makes Savannah a world leader
- Anthem Foundation [directs \\$200K+ to address food insecurity in Georgia](#) resulting from COVID-19 pandemic
- Savannah [celebrates local high school seniors with “Curbside Celebration” parade](#)
- [Savannah expat writes heartfelt letter from London to her hometown](#) amid pandemic
- Savannah Children’s Choir [takes on a virtual connection](#)
- The DeSoto Savannah [announces the Savannah Vibe, a free open-air concert series](#) from hotel balconies
- [These dolphins can’t get enough](#) of frolicking in bioluminescent waves

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
- [Money Magazine's Best Loans of 2020](#)

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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