

"Essential Services" Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who defines "Essential Services" and "Essential Activities"?

The Governor's Executive Orders 20-89 and 20-91 define "essential services" and "essential activities." These orders supersede any previously issued Broward County emergency orders.

2. Where can I find a list of what is included in "Essential Services" and "Essential Activities"?

The Governor maintains a list at www.floridadisaster.org. Please also refer to Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20 (with amendments) that was included in the Governor's Executive Orders 20-89 and 20-91.

3. Who enforces the limitations to Essential Services and Essential Activities?

Enforcement is primarily at the local municipal level.

4. I don't see my type of business listed in the Governor's or Miami-Dade County's list of Essential Services, but my type of business was listed in the prior Broward County Emergency Orders. Are there services that were addressed by prior Broward County Emergency Orders that may not be expressly identified but are still "Essential Services" as defined by the Governor's Executive Orders 20-89 and 20-91?

Yes, based upon Broward County's understanding of the Governor's Executive Orders, the following services that were previously and expressly identified as Essential Businesses by Broward County are included within the scope of the Governor's list of "Essential Services":

- Research and laboratory services
- Substance abuse treatment providers
- Other establishments engaged in the sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell both groceries and non-grocery products and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and other structures.
- Marine fueling stations (limited to operation as a retail fuel center)
- Motorcycle, scooter, and motorcycle or scooter repair shops, bicycle and bicycle repair shops
- Insurance firms
- Pawn shops
- Building materials stores
- Building management and maintenance (including janitorial companies servicing commercial businesses), appliance and repair personnel, and other service providers who provide services necessary to maintaining essential services' operations
- Business primarily providing post office boxes
- Food trucks (provided food trucks comply with the Governor's Executive Order 20-71 and CDC social distancing guidelines)

- Businesses providing transportation services via automobile, truck, boat, bus, or train
- Home-based residential settings for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with disabilities or mental illness
- Residential landscape and pool care services
- Businesses providing home telecommunications services

5. Are there services that were addressed by prior Broward County Emergency Orders that are not within the scope of “Essential Services” as defined by the Governor’s Executive Orders 20-89 and 29-91?

Yes, based upon Broward County’s understanding of the Governor’s Executive Orders, the following services are not included in the Governor’s list of “Essential” and may no longer operate:

- Gardening stores that are not hardware/building materials stores
- Businesses that are not otherwise an Essential Service but have five (5) or fewer employees with limited access to the public (*Broward County is requesting an addition to the Governor’s list of Essential Services to address this omission, as this was previously included in Broward County’s Emergency Order*).
- Moving, storage, and relocation services (i.e., other than for the healthcare industry, petroleum or energy industry, public works, solid/hazardous waste industry, or the food and agriculture industry) (*Broward County is requesting an addition to the Governor’s list of Essential Services to address this omission, as this was previously included in Broward County’s Emergency Order*).

6. Are there any Broward County limitations on the operations of Essential Services?

Yes. Broward County Emergency Order 20-05 requires all Essential Services use reasonable efforts to ensure all persons on site maintain appropriate social distancing, as recommended by the current CDC guidance, particularly in checkout, pickup, or take-out areas, and also in employee breakrooms and common use areas. Reasonable efforts may include marking floors at appropriate intervals or provision of other visible systems to encourage persons to maintain proper social distancing. Please note: municipalities may impose additional limitations.

7. Are pools, beaches, and golf courses open or closed?

Pools, beaches, and golf courses are generally closed. The Governor’s Executive Orders 29-70 and 20-90 closed all Broward County beaches. Broward County Emergency Order 20-05 closed all pools and golf courses and other recreational amenities, except for recreational amenities that are (a) required for the conduct of an Essential Service, or (b) located on a single family residential lot, single townhouse unit, or any part of a duplex lot, and utilized only by the inhabitants of that lot or unit.

8. Are marinas and marine fueling stations open or closed?

Marine fueling stations to the extent used solely for fueling are “Essential Services” (i.e., retail fuel centers, as listed in the DHS/CISA list) and therefore marine fueling at such locations is permitted. Marinas are otherwise closed (subject to very limited exceptions, except to the

extent providing other Essential Services such as groceries and beverage products) pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders. The Governor's Executive Orders incorporate the Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20, as amended through March 30, 2020, which closed all marinas, boat launches, docking, fueling, marine supply and other marina services, except to the extent necessary to support the following limited operations: (a) allow any person with a commercial saltwater license issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to enter and use county owned or operated marinas for commercial fishing purposes only; (b) support patrol, enforcement, and rescue activity by federal, state, and local government agencies; (c) accommodate boats or ferries in support of County port operations; (d) accommodate persons living aboard their vessels; (e) accommodate persons returning to the United States from international voyages; and (f) authorize persons needing to remove their vessel from the water or to perform emergency maintenance on a vessel, marinas, fueling stations, and marine supply service.

9. *What if I disagree with the closures, or think my business should be listed as an Essential Service?*

The list of Essential Services is managed by the Governor's office, and suggestions for changes should be directed to the State Health Officer at COVID-19@flhealth.gov. For other closures, Broward County appreciates that closures may pose a hardship to some individuals, but these measures are necessary to protect public health and safety.