



Frequently Asked Questions

WMHD Public Health Order – Updated 4-14-2020

To read the Public Health Order:

<http://webermorganhealth.org/coronavirus>

GENERAL QUESTIONS

On April 14, 2020, the Weber-Morgan Health Department issued a revised Public Health Order.

The order is presented in two parts – directives and formal orders for individuals and businesses. It matches previous county and state public health orders and extends them through 11:59 PM on May 1, 2020. It also includes new directives to discourage nightly and short-term rentals of private properties.

Q: What type of in-state travel guidelines apply in Weber and Morgan counties?

A: Private nightly rentals are strongly discouraged and non-resident homeowners should refrain from traveling to Weber and Morgan Counties during this time. This follows an April 9 directive from the Governor that all out-of-state visitors fill a travel declaration at entry points and airports throughout the state.

Q: Do I need to show documentation to travel into Weber or Morgan counties?

A: You can travel from one county to another for work or essential tasks without providing documentation. Otherwise, you should stay home. All individuals coming from another state will need to complete the travel declaration outlined in the Governor's Directive of April 9, 2020.

Q: What is the purpose of the Public Health Order?

A: Public health orders are legally enforceable directives that are given to protect the public's health, especially when restrictions are needed to stop the spread of a communicable disease. The Weber-Morgan Public Health Order was issued to protect our community and to slow the spread of COVID-19. The updated order, issued on April 14, 2020, is consistent with the state's extended directive to "Stay Safe, Stay Home," but provides additional detail and clarification about closures and restrictions. We need everyone to do their part to stay home when possible so that those in most need will have access to necessary care.

Q: How long will the Public Health Order be in effect?

A: The initial Public Health Order issued by Weber-Morgan Health Department went into effect on March 18, and updated on April 2, and again on April 14. The current order will be in effect through 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2020.

Q: What changed from the initial Public Health Order?

A: The Order provides the following requirements. All residents and businesses are encouraged to read the Order in its entirety.

1. Directs all individuals to stay at home except to engage in essential activities, which includes going to work under the conditions outlined in the Order.
2. Matches earlier county and state public health orders regarding food service operations.
3. Closes certain businesses that act as gathering places or involve unavoidable close contact between people. These businesses include: salons (hair, nail, eyelash), spas, tattoo and piercing shops, permanent makeup, swimming pools and splash pads, arcades, bowling alleys, movie theaters, playgrounds, recreation centers, swimming pools, gyms and fitness centers, performance venues, indoor play centers, social clubs, museums, aquariums, and zoos.
4. Closes children's playgrounds and limits access to outdoor sports courts and fields to individuals and members of the same household. Residents are asked to be responsible while spending time outside by always maintaining six feet from other people outside of their household. People should not congregate at trailheads or other outdoor spaces.
5. Requires businesses to actively enforce social distancing practices and exclude ill employees from working; social distancing should include at least six feet between all people in the establishment, and workers symptomatic with respiratory illness or fever must not be present under any circumstances.
6. Discourages private nightly rentals and non-resident homeowners should refrain from traveling to Weber and Morgan Counties during this time. This follows an April 9 directive from the Governor that all out-of-state visitors fill a travel declaration at entry points and airports throughout the state.

Q: What is the penalty for not following the Order?

A: Under [Utah Code 26A-1-123\(1\)\(5\)](#), it is unlawful for any person, association, or corporation to violate any lawful order regarding public health, and the criminal penalty for violating a public health order is a class B misdemeanor.

However, PLEASE NOTE, the intent of this order is NOT to penalize; the intent is to convey how serious COVID-19 is to public health and be clear about what's at stake. Residents and businesses are urged to comply with this Order and every effort will be made to educate people to achieve compliance. The Weber-Morgan Health Department will continue to respond to issues and reports of violation.

GATHERING QUESTIONS

Q: What does social distancing mean? Why should I practice social distancing?

A: Social distancing means to avoid gathering in groups of people and to keep a safe distance, at least six feet away, from others. Avoiding close physical contact (social distancing) is the single most important thing everyone can do to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Q: Can I get together with a group of people?

A: On March 27, Governor Gary Herbert issued a [Coronavirus Directive to the State of Utah](#), which limited gatherings to only those living in the same household or residence. Individuals should not get together in groups (of any number of people) with those outside of their same household or residence. This was done to help prevent the spread of the virus by minimizing the number of people an ill person could infect.

The Weber-Morgan Public Health Order supports this directive and limits gatherings to only those living in the same household or residence.

Q: Can my kids play with their friends?

A: No, your kids should not get together to play with their friends. It is best for them to remain at home to keep them safe and to keep the community safe. However, kids can stay in touch with their friends through texting, phone calls, or video chats. If kids help each other to stay at home, it will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Q: What about my pet?

A: You can seek medical care for your pet if needed. You are also welcome to go outdoors with your pet, such as on a walk, but should practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away from other people and pets.

OUTDOOR AREA QUESTIONS

Q: Can I spend time outdoors?

A: Yes, fresh air is important. You can still go outside on your own and with your family, as long as you remain six feet away from other people outside of your household. It is okay to go on a walk, run, hike, bike ride, or similar activity that can be done while keeping a safe distance from others. If a particular trailhead is busy, look for another one.

Q: How does the Public Health Order apply to parks?

A: Parks can remain open, but children’s playground areas will be closed through 11:59 PM on May 1. Individuals and members of their household can access sports fields and courts, but team sports, including pickup games, are not permitted. While visiting a park or any type of recreational area, be sure to practice social distancing by maintaining six feet of space between others outside of your household. Do not gather in groups.

Q: Can I visit trails?

A: Yes, individuals and members of their household may visit trails, but must use social distancing practices by staying six feet away from other people not living in their same household, at all times. Individuals should not gather at trailheads or other outdoor spaces.

Q: Can I go camping?

A: Camping or Campgrounds are not addressed in the Public Health Order. For information about seasonal operations contact the campground management. As with all outdoor activities, you should only camp with people within your own household and stay 6-feet away from others and not share equipment. Individuals who are ill should not camp.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS

Q: What are the requirements for businesses in Weber and Morgan Counties?

A: In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, the updated Order requires all businesses to:

- Limit the number of employees reporting to work and use teleworking options when possible.
- Actively enforce social distancing practices by maintaining at least six feet between all people in the establishment and not allowing people to get together in groups.
- Exclude all employees and patrons who are ill (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) from the workplace.
- Frequently clean and sanitize highly-touched areas in the workplace.

For more detailed information, please read Section 6 of the Public Health Order.

Employers should not require employees to produce a positive COVID-19 test result or a healthcare provider’s note if they are sick. Employers should also take measures to accommodate high-risk individuals (those 60 years or older or any individual with a serious underlying medical condition).

In some situations, an individual or business may be unable to comply with these recommendations, due to the essential services that they provide or the nature of their operations, and are therefore exempt from enforcement.

Q: What are some cleaning guidelines for surfaces in my workplace?

A: There are not specific guidelines of how often a surface needs to be cleaned or sanitized, as this depends on many variables. The general guideline is that surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized frequently and regularly.

The cleaning schedule should be specific to each location based on the number of people that pass through and what surfaces are frequently touched. The National Institutes of Health has conducted some testing and have found that COVID-19 can remain in the air as long as 2-3 hours. Once it has settled on a surface it has survived on cardboard up to 24 hours and on plastics and stainless steel for 2-3 days.

For more information on how to properly sanitize your workplace, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Q: Does my business need to close?

A: The only businesses asked to temporarily close are those that act as gathering places or involve close contact between people, including salons (hair, nail, eyelash), spas, tattoo and piercing shops, permanent makeup, swimming pools and splash pads, amusement parks, arcades, bowling alleys, movie theaters, playgrounds, recreation centers, swimming pools, gyms and fitness centers, performance venues, indoor play centers, social clubs, museums, aquariums, and zoos.

For all other businesses, the decision to remain open or to close is the responsibility of the employer. It is up to you to determine if it is essential to keep your business open. We encourage everyone to do their part to help protect employees and patrons by enforcing social distancing, frequently sanitizing surfaces, practicing good hygiene, and ensuring there are no gatherings.

Q: What businesses are considered essential?

A: The Public Health Order does not define which industries are essential or nonessential. It is up to the discretion of businesses to decide if they will remain in operation. Those that remain open should ensure that employees follow public health recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including practicing social distancing by staying six feet away from others and limiting the number of staff present.

While most businesses are encouraged to offer work from home or other remote options for employees, there are some industries that need to continue operating with staff on location because the services that they provide are considered to be essential or necessary. Those working in these sectors have a special responsibility to maintain their normal work schedule.

Q: How are child care centers permitted to operate?

A: The Department of Workforce Services and the Office of Child Care recognize that

there is deep concern and confusion regarding information surrounding the operation of child care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. In coordination with Child Care Licensing (CCL), the Office of Child Care has made resources for parents and providers.

These resources can be accessed at: jobs.utah.gov/covid19/index.html.

Utah's child care programs are strongly encouraged to implement the practices recommended by the Utah Department of Health and its Child Care Licensing Program. These recommendations include:

- Providing daily screenings for the following signs and symptoms: fever, dry coughing, and shortness of breath.
- Frequent and regular hand washing for adults and children, including upon arrival to the center.
- Restricting groups of individuals within the center or facility to ten (10) or less.
 - A provider can allow more than ten (10) individuals in the center or facility if each group (of not more than ten (10) individuals) is in a room separated by full walls from the other group(s).
- Limiting child drop-off or pick-up at the facility to one family at a time.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of materials, toys, bathrooms, and surfaces.

Additional guidance can be found at: <https://childcarelicensing.utah.gov/> and www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html.

Where possible, try to retain a normal routine to help children with these adjustments.

Q: Are personal services (salon, spa, massage, etc.) permitted to operate?

A: As of the Public Health Order issued on April 2, 2020, Weber-Morgan Health Department has closed all non-essential services that require unavoidable personal contact, including: salons, spas, massage, threading, waxing, and nail salons.

Q: Are there guidelines for dental offices?

A: Dental clinical services should be limited to emergency services only and must implement protocols to prevent potential exposure to and spread of COVID-19 consistent with the [Utah Dental Association's guidelines](#).

Q: Are chiropractic offices permitted to operate?

A: Yes, chiropractic offices are able to stay open because they provide essential healthcare services. Efforts should be made to protect both the patient and the provider, including preventing those who are ill from entering the building, regularly washing hands, and sanitizing surfaces frequently.

Q: Can gyms stay open?

A: No, gyms must closed through May 1.

Q: What if I see a business that isn't enforcing social distancing?

A: It is the responsibility of the business to control the number of people inside a public space or waiting in lines. If this is not occurring, protect yourself by leaving the facility. Complaints will be investigated by the health department staff.

Q: Where can I find small business support?

A: Low-interest and no-interest loans have been made available to small businesses as part of the state and federal government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Business owners impacted can visit sba.gov/disaster, coronavirus.utah.gov/business.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS/FOOD-RELATED

Q: What are the requirements for food establishments in Weber-Morgan Health Department?

A: The guidelines for food establishments generally remained the same as those initially issued in the Order on March 18. The Weber-Morgan Health Public Health Order, which was updated on April 2 and April 14, goes through 11:59 PM on May 1, requires all food service, restaurants, self-serve buffets, salad bars, unpackaged self-serve food services, bars, taverns, nightclubs, private liquor clubs, and saloons in close to members, guests, patrons, customers, and the general public. Food service may operate on a limited basis, subject to the following operational requirements:

- Prohibit all dine-in food service, whether inside or outside the establishment.
- Curbside, take-out, drive-thru food service or pickup service is permitted.
- Customers should not go inside the establishment except to order, pick up, or pay for food for take-out only.
- For hotel restaurants, food items may only be delivered as room service delivered to the door or curbside services (as described above).
- Third party food services, like Uber Eats, DoorDash, etc. are required to observe “no contact delivery,” which means these services cannot have person-to-person contact. Employees should not engage in delivery services if they have any symptoms of illness.
- Cash payments are strongly discouraged.
- Staff who take payments shall use cleaning measures between each transaction.
- Where possible, online or telephone payment options are preferred.
- Staff who handle cash or credit card payments shall not be involved in the preparation, handling, or delivery of food.
- Management must ensure on a daily basis that no employee who presents symptoms of illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) will be permitted to work.

Q: How long will food establishment restrictions be in place for Weber and Morgan County?

A: The Weber-Morgan Public Health Order issued on April 2 will be effect through 11:59 PM on Friday, May 1.

Q: Can customers pick up a prepared meal from inside our establishment?

A: Yes, customers can pick up orders for take-out. Orders should be placed ahead of time electronically or over the phone whenever possible.

Q: Can I provide food service to customers if I do not have a drive-thru?

A: Patrons may enter the establishment to order, pay for, and pick up to-go orders only. If customers will be inside of your business, proper social distancing protocols must be followed by having patrons maintain a minimum of six feet from others. Employees handling payments should not participate in any food handling and must use cleansing measures between payments.

Q: Can convenience stores continue to operate?

A: Yes, convenience stores can still sell food items and self-serve drinks. However, other than self-serve drinks, no food items can be self-serve. A convenience store that chooses to sell food items or self-serve drinks shall cleanse and sanitize high-touch surface areas frequently.

Q: Can customers still access my self-serve buffet or condiment bars for takeout?

A: No. Self-service buffets and condiment bars are not allowed. All condiments available for customers must be pre-packaged.

Q: What about bulk food items at grocery stores?

A: Self-serve unpackaged bulk food items at grocery stores are not allowed.

Q: How should we handle payments? Are cash transactions allowed?

A: We recommend handling payments remotely, either electronically or over the phone. Cash transactions are allowed, but are strongly discouraged. An employee handling payments MAY NOT handle food or food containers in any way.

Q: Will the Health Department issue Temporary Mass Gathering permits and Temporary Establishment permits? Can I get a refund for a permit I already was approved for?

A: At the present time, the Health Department will not be able to support any public gathering with any number of people. Therefore, no Temporary Mass Gathering nor Temporary Food Establishment permits will be issued until further notice. Refunds are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please submit your request in writing to the Environmental Health Services Division of the Weber-Morgan Health Department.

