



STATE ESSENTIAL BUSINESS RULINGS: WINE & SPIRITS WHOLESALERS DEEMED ESSENTIAL IN 40 STATES

As governors across the country issue Stay at Home Orders that close or limit non-essential businesses, wholesaler/distributors, including wine and spirit wholesalers, were not identified as non-essential in any order.

Liquor stores were deemed non-essential in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Nevada.

This document details each stay at home order and the businesses deemed essential in each state pertaining to the alcohol industry.

ALABAMA

On April 3, 2020, Gov. Ivey issued a [Stay at Home Order](#) closed all non-essential businesses. The order deemed essential: “supermarkets, food and beverage stores, including liquor stores,” restaurants and bars, and “warehouse, distribution and fulfillment centers.”

ALASKA

On March 27, 2020, Gov. Dunleavy issued [Essential Services and Critical Workforce Infrastructure Order](#) closing or limiting non-essential businesses. The order deemed essential: grocery stores, establishments engaged in the retail sale of food and beverages, restaurants (for carryout and delivery only), “businesses that transport goods to grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores” and incorporates the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance which includes: workers supporting groceries and retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

ARIZONA

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Ducey issued [Executive Order Prohibiting the Closure of Essential Services](#) which lists as essential: restaurants for consumption off-premises; stores that sell alcoholic beverages; and manufacturers, distribution and producers of supply chain-critical products including food and beverage.

CALIFORNIA

On March 19, 2020, Gov. Newsom issued [Executive Order N-33-20](#), a stay at home order directing the closure of non-essential businesses. [State Public Health Officer list](#) the following as essential: liquor stores that sell food, restaurants for carry-out, and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution (including curbside distribution and deliveries), including warehouse workers.

COLORADO

On March 25, 2020, Gov. Polis issued [Executive Order D2020-017](#) ordering residents to stay at home except for essential businesses which, according to [Amended Public Health Order 20-24](#), includes grocery stores, liquor stores, restaurants and bars for takeout only, and warehouses/distribution.

CONNECTICUT

Effective March 23, 2020, Gov. Lamont’s [Stay at Home Order](#) closed all non-essential businesses - liquor/package stores and manufacturer permittees and wholesalers were deemed essential.

DELAWARE

Effective March 24, 2020, Gov. Carey's [Stay at Home Order](#) closed all non-essential businesses - the order [listed](#) as essential "Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverage Merchant Wholesalers" as well as "beer, wine, and liquor stores."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

On March 24, 2020, Mayor Bowser issued [Order 2020-53](#) that directed the closure of all non-essential businesses; business deemed essential include: alcohol wholesalers, restaurants (for carryout only), and liquor stores.

FLORIDA

On April 1, 2020, Gov. DeSantis issued a "Stay at Home" order for the whole state. The order follows the federal [DHS-CISA Guidance](#) identifying essential business on essential businesses including workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers. The governor made it clear that the order is directed at individuals, not businesses, so "non-essential" businesses are not being ordered to shut down.

GEORGIA

Gov. Kemp issued [Executive Order 04.02.20.01](#), a Shelter in Place Order closing all non-essential businesses. The order follows the federal [DHS-CISA Guidance](#) identifying essential business on essential businesses including workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

HAWAII

Gov. Ige [issued a Stay at Home Order](#) effective March 25; the order deemed essential stores that sell alcoholic beverages, restaurants offering food for sale off-premise, and manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.

IDAHO

On March 25, 2020, Gov. Little issued a [stay at home order](#) that closes all non-essential business; the order deemed the following essential: businesses that sell at retail beer, wine, or liquor, restaurants (for carryout/delivery only), and "businesses that supply other Essential Businesses ...with the support or supplies necessary to operate."

ILLINOIS

Effective March 21, 2020, Gov. Pritzker's [Executive Order 2020-8](#) closed all non-essential businesses. The order deemed as essential businesses: grocery stores, liquor stores, and alcoholic liquor distributors.

INDIANA

On April 6, 2020, Gov. Holcomb signed [Executive Order 20-18](#) that extended the previous stay at home order and further curtailed retail operations. While food and beverage retailers and distributors are deemed essential, liquor package stores are limited to delivery and curbside pickup only. Distribution, fulfillment centers are also considered essential. The order also incorporates the federal Cyber and Infrastructure

Security Agency ([CISA](#)) [guidance](#) on essential businesses including workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

KANSAS

On March 28, 2020, Gov. Kelly issued [Executive Order 20-16](#) directing residents statewide to stay home - liquor stores and wholesalers are deemed essential.

KENTUCKY

On March 25, 2020, Gov. Beshear issued [Executive Order 2020-257](#) closing all non-essential businesses – the list of essential businesses specifically designates grocery stores, drug stores, and liquor stores as essential businesses and follows the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance which includes workers supporting groceries and retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

LOUISIANA

On March 22, 2020, Gov. Edwards signed [Proclamation No. 33 JBE 2020](#), a stay at home order, closing all non-essential businesses. The list of essential businesses follows the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance which includes workers supporting groceries and retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery food operations; and employees and firms supporting food and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

MAINE

On March 24, 2020, Gov. Mills issued [Executive Order 19 FY 19/20](#) mandating that all non-essential businesses and operations close their physical locations that are public facing. The order follows the federal DHS-CISA Guidance identifying essential business which includes: “Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations, Carry-out and delivery food employees; Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers.”

MARYLAND

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Hogan issued an [order closing all non-essential businesses](#) throughout the state of Maryland indefinitely; the order deemed as essential businesses “alcoholic beverage stores and distributors, distilleries, and wineries.

MASSACHUSETTS

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Baker issued a [Stay at Home Order](#) requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide essential services to close their physical workplaces for two weeks. The [COVID-19 Essential Services](#) list deems essential: liquor stores, restaurants for carryout only, grocery stores, and wholesale/distribution employees.

MICHIGAN

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Whitmer issued at [Stay at Home Order \(EO 2020-21\)](#) that prohibits all businesses and operations from requiring workers to leave their homes unless those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations. The order follows the federal [DHS-CISA Guidance](#) identifying essential business that includes workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

MINNESOTA

On March 25, 2020, Gov. Walz issued [Executive Order 20-20](#), ordering residents to stay at home until Friday, April 10; Essential business designations follow the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) [guidance](#) that includes workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

MISSISSIPPI

On April 1, 2020, Gov. Reeves signed [Executive Order 1466](#) a statewide shelter in place order - the order deems essential warehouse, distribution and fulfillment centers, food and beverage stores, convenience stores, and restaurants and bars but only to the extent that not more than 10 people are gathered in a single space at the same time where individuals are in seated or otherwise in close proximity or for curbside pickup, carryout, or delivery.

MISSOURI

On April 3, 2020, the Department of Health issued a [Stay at Home Order](#) that follows the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) [guidance](#) on essential businesses including workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

MONTANA

On March 26, 2020, Gov. Bullock issued a [stay at home directive](#) ordering the closure of all non-essential businesses; the order deems as essential: grocery stores, liquor stores, restaurants for off-premise consumption, and food and beverage distributors.

NEVADA

On March 22, 2020, the Governor issued a memo closing all liquor stores, as they are specifically deemed "non-essential." However, Logistics and Supply Chain Operations including warehousing, storage, distribution, and supply-chain related operations are deemed essential.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

On March 26, 2020, Gov. Sununu issued [Executive Order 17](#), a stay at home order, closing all non-essential businesses effective March 27 at midnight. [Exhibit A](#) to the Order deems essential: liquor stores, restaurants for carryout/delivery only, grocery stores, and employees of firms providing services that enable logistics operations including...distributing products for wholesale or retail sale.

NEW JERSEY

On March 21, 2020, Gov. Murphy issued [Executive Order 107](#) closing all non-essential retailers; the order deemed essential: grocery stores, liquor stores, and restaurants (for carryout/delivery only).

NEW MEXICO

On April 6, 2020, Gov. Grisham issued [Executive Order 2020-022](#) (changing and extending the March 23, 2020 [Stay at Home Order](#)). The new order extended the stay at home order through April 30 and removed the essential status of independent liquor stores. Grocery stores and convenience stores remain essential and may still sell alcohol. Also essential are businesses that “ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences or retailers.”

NEW YORK

On March 18, 2020, Gov. Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.6](#) closing all non-essential businesses – [guidance issued](#) by the Department of Economic Development deemed essential food and beverage stores, restaurants for carryout and delivery only, and exempted liquor stores from the rule requiring at least 75% of a business' workforce to work from home. Also essential are businesses that “ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences or retailers.”

NORTH CAROLINA

On March 27, 2020, Gov. Cooper issued [Executive Order 121](#), a stay at home order, closing all non-essential businesses until April 30. The order deems essential: grocery stores, liquor stores, and food and beverage distribution, as well as those businesses identified by the federal [DHS-CISA Guidance](#) that includes: Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

OHIO

On March 22, 2020, the Department of Health issued a statewide ["Stay at Home" Order](#) within which identifies food distribution as "essential infrastructure" and is widely being interpreted to include alcohol distributors.

OKLAHOMA

On April 1, 2020, Govt. Stitt issued [Seventh Amended Executive Order](#) extending the closure of all non-essential businesses in counties that have community spread. Essential business designations follow the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) [guidance](#) which includes: Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery food operations; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

PENNSYLVANIA

Effective April 1, 2020, Gov. Wolf's [Stay at Home Order](#) closed all non-essential businesses – “beer, wine, and distilled alcoholic beverage merchant wholesalers” were deemed essential but “beer, wine, and liquor stores” were deemed non-essential.

RHODE ISLAND

On April 8, 2020, Gov. Raimondo announced that [Executive Order 20-13](#) that closed all non-essential retail businesses through May 8. Liquor stores are deemed essential.

SOUTH CAROLINA

On April 6, 2020, Gov. McMaster issued [Executive Order 2020-21](#) that specifically identifies certain retail businesses as non-essential and thus must close; alcohol stores were not listed as non-essential and may remain operational. The order did identify as essential businesses “Individuals operating commercial vehicles transporting essential goods and products, such as food...”

TENNESSEE

On March 30, 2020, Gov. Lee issued [Executive Order 22](#), a stay at home order closing all non-essential businesses. The order deems as essential stores that sell alcoholic beverages and its supply chain operations. The order also incorporates the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) [guidance](#) on essential businesses that includes: Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery food operations; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

TEXAS

On March 31, 2020, Gov. Abbott issued [Executive Order GA-14](#) ordering residents to stay at home. The order follows the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) [guidance](#) which includes: Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery; and employees and firms supporting food, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.

VERMONT

On March 24, 2020, Gov. Scott issued [Addendum 6 to EO 01-20](#) directing residents to stay at home and the closure of non-essential businesses. The order deemed essential: beer and wine wholesalers and “retail serving basic human needs such as grocery stores, pharmacies, other retail that sells food, beverage, provided, these retail operations shall be conducted through on-line and telephone orders for delivery and curbside pickup to the extent possible.”

VIRGINIA

Gov. Northam’s March 30 [Executive Order 55](#) expands existing stay at home limitations and duration until June 10, 2020, but does not make changes to businesses already deemed essential including beer, wine, and liquor stores.

WASHINGTON

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Inslee issued a “Stay at Home” Order that deems the following as [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#) that may remain open: workers supporting...liquor stores that sell food; restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations – including food preparation, carry-out and delivery food employees; and employees of firms providing services that enable logistics operations, including cooling, storing, packaging, and distributing products for wholesale or retail sale or use.

WEST VIRGINIA

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Justice issued a [State at Home Order](#) that deemed alcohol beverage retailers as essential businesses as well as “their supply chain and administrative support operations.”

WISCONSIN

On March 24, 2020, Gov. Evers announced a [Stay at Home Order](#) that directs all nonessential businesses to close; the order deems essential alcohol stores and restaurants (for takeout/delivery only) as well as those businesses identified by the federal [DHS-CISA Guidance](#) that includes: Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products; restaurants - for carry-out and delivery food operations; and employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers.