

FAQ ABOUT THE ALTUS, OKLAHOMA EMERGENCY ORDERS

1. What are the current emergency orders for Altus?

On April 15th, 2020, Mayor Smiley issued emergency orders which follow the Emergency Orders that have been issued by Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt.

2. Must I Stay at Home?

Oklahoma Statute – Quarantine and Isolation.

Yes, if you were quarantined or isolated by a local health officer. See Title 63 O.S. §1-504.

Safer-at-Home for Vulnerable Individuals and Over 65.

Yes, if you are over 65 or are a vulnerable individual; UNLESS you work in a critical infrastructure sector or you are running an essential errand.

The Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07, issued March 24th, 2020, at ¶17, states that adults over 65 and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions (“vulnerable individuals”) shall (must) stay in their home. **EXCEPTIONS** to this Order are: (a) those working in the critical infrastructure sector (essential business”), and (b) essential errands critical to everyday life.

Individuals from Areas of Substantial Community Spread.

Yes, if you are from an area with substantial community spread of COVID-19.

The Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶26, issued April 1st, 2020, requires all persons who enter Oklahoma from an area with substantial community spread, including but limited to the New York Tri-State Area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York), the State of Washington, California and Louisiana to quarantine for a period of 14 days from entry or the duration of stay, whichever is shorter. **EXCEPTIONS** are airline employees, persons performing military, emergency or health response or workers in an essential business.

Other Persons.

No ... (a) if you have not been isolated or quarantined by a local health officer, and (b) you are not over the age of 65 or a vulnerable individual, and (c) are not entering Oklahoma from an area with substantial community spread.

3. Are masks or facial coverings mandatory in public?

No. Masks or facial coverings in public are strongly recommended but are not required.

4. Is my business closed by Executive Order?

If the business is identified as a critical infrastructure sector (“essential business”) the business remains open.

If the business is not identified as a critical infrastructure sector (“essential business”) the business is closed.

The Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶20, issued March 24th, 2020, states that beginning at 11:59 p.m. on March 25th, 2020, all business not identified as being within a critical infrastructure sector as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and located in a county experiencing community spread of COVID-19 as identified by the OSDH on its website shall (must) close.

Look to the *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response* and *Executive Memorandum 2020-01* and *Amended Executive Memorandum 2020-01* to see if your business is considered essential. If you are not certain then obtain a decision and approval at <https://criticalworker.ok.gov/>.

If a business is considered essential by the State of Oklahoma it is also considered essential by the City of Altus.

At present, non-essential businesses are closed until April 30, 2020, under the Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶20, issued April 1st, 2020.

5. Can I visit my friend or relative at the nursing home?

No.

The Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07, issued March 24th, 2020, at ¶21, states that visitors are prohibited from entering and visiting patients at nursing homes, long-term care facilities and retirement homes.

We understand that the Executive Order may cause disruption, inconvenience or even emotional pain and we are sorry for this. However, current information about COVID-19 indicates that these patients are the most vulnerable to COVID-19.

6. Is my surgery postponed?

Consult your medical provider.

The Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07, issued March 24th, 2020, at ¶18, states that Oklahomans and medical providers shall (must) postpone all elective surgeries, minor medical procedures and non-emergency dental procedures until April 7th, 2020. This was later extended to April 30th, 2020, in the Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶18, that was issued April 1st, 2020.

YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR MEDICAL PROVIDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SURGERY OR PROCEDURE HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

7. Can I go to Church?

Yes.

Amended Executive Memorandum 2020-01 issued March 25th, 2020, at page 4, under the heading OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS identifies as essential “**Faith-based services that are provided through streaming or other technology.**”

Unfortunately, the current Executive Orders do not appear to allow traditional church services where people gather together under one roof. However, if services can be conducted in compliance with the Amended Executive Memorandum 2020-01 and the remaining Executive Orders then they should be permissible.

8. Do I have to tell people I came from an area of substantial community spread?

Yes.

According to the Sixth Amended Executive Order, at ¶27, issued March 29th, 2020, all persons entering Oklahoma from an area of substantial community spread must inform any individual in Oklahoma with whom they have had direct physical contact in the past 21 days that they have traveled from an area with substantial community spread.

9. Can I have a social gathering of more than 10 people?

No.

According to the Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶19, issued March 24th, 2020, social gatherings of 10 or more people are prohibited AND essential businesses must take all reasonable steps necessary to comply with this Order to protect employees, workers and patrons.

10. Are persons making deliveries to medical facilities and childcare facilities subject to screening?

Yes.

Under the Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶22, issued April 1st, 2020, all delivery personnel, at the request of the hospital, clinic, long-term care facility or childcare facility shall (must) submit to screening prior to delivering goods.

11. Can I still order food from a restaurant?

Yes.

The Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶20, issued April 1st, 2020, limits restaurants and bars to providing takeout, curbside and delivery services until April 30th, 2020.

12. Can I refuse housing or childcare to a healthcare worker for fear of their exposure to COVID-19?

No.

The Seventh Amended Executive Order 2020-07, at ¶23, issued April 1st, 2020, prohibits discrimination in housing in childcare against front-line healthcare workers and their children who have not tested positive for COVID-19 and are not exhibiting symptoms.

13. Where can I find Governor Stitt's Executive Orders?

Governor Stitt's Executive Orders and Executive Memorandum can be viewed at <https://www.sos.ok.gov/gov/execorders.aspx>.

Disclaimer: These FAQ are not a substitute for the Executive Orders and Executive Memorandum that have been issued. These simplified answers are based upon the opinion and interpretation of the Altus City Attorney and do not excuse non-compliance with the Executive Orders and Executive Memorandum that have been issued.