



# CITY OF SOUTH FULTON COVID-19 SHELTER-IN-PLACE FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

City of South Fulton officials are encouraging residents to follow guidance from Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp after he announced an executive order Monday asking people at high-risk for certain medical conditions to shelter in place to help curb the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

### Who does the order apply to?

The shelter-in-place order applies to people in long-term care facilities, those with chronic lung disease, those undergoing cancer treatment, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those suspected of having the virus because of symptoms or exposure to an infected person.

### What exactly does shelter in place mean?

It simply means staying at home and only leaving to perform essential tasks, including buying food at a grocery store, picking up prescriptions at a pharmacy, buying gas, going to the bank, and checking on vulnerable or sick relatives when absolutely necessary.

### How long must I shelter in place?

The order is to shelter in place for two weeks. Watch for updates on whether that will be extended.

### What is the difference between “sheltering in place” and “social distancing”?

Sheltering in place is a more rigorous form of social distancing. It means you:

- Must stay at home
- Can only leave your home for “essential activities,” to work for an “essential business,” or for “essential travel,” which are defined in the Order (see FAQs for details)
- Cannot host or attend any gatherings
- Should maintain a 6-foot distance from other people as much as possible, wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds each time (or use hand sanitizer), frequently disinfect high-touch surfaces, and stay home if you are sick.

### What if I have to work?

You are permitted to travel to and from work as required.

### Can I leave home to visit friends or family members if there is no urgent need or I am not performing an essential activity?

No. For your safety as well as their safety, we need to help each other fight the spread of COVID-19 by staying at home.

### Can I still get my mail and deliveries?

Yes. You will still be able to get mail and other deliveries at your home. Businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences are “essential businesses” that may continue to operate.

### Can I leave home to go to the pharmacy to get my prescriptions or to address other health care needs?

Yes. Drug stores and other medical supply stores can operate. When possible, you should have prescription medicines and health care supplies delivered to your home.

### What if I need to get healthcare from my medical provider?

You can still get your health needs addressed. Contact your health care provider to see if they are providing regular services. Some services, especially elective procedures, may be postponed or canceled. If you are feeling sick, please first call your doctor, a nurse hotline, or an urgent care center. Do not go to the emergency room of a hospital unless you are having an actual emergency.

### Can I go shopping for things other than food/groceries? I stock up on food, toilet paper, and on medicines?

No. You will continue to be able to purchase these items. Stores selling necessary items like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores will remain open. Please continue to buy normal quantities of these items. You can shop for anything related to healthcare, hardware supplies, supplies needed to telecommute, and supplies essential to safety and sanitation. But, minimize unnecessary trips.

### What should I do if I'm sick? If I or a family member need immediate medical attention, can I leave home to go to the doctor or hospital?

If you are feeling sick, first call your doctor, a nurse hotline, or an urgent care center before going to the hospital. Do not go to the emergency room of a hospital unless you are having an actual emergency. But you can and should seek medical advice if you or a family member is sick. If it is not an emergency, please contact your primary care provider to determine next steps. Also, you can check online resources to help you assess symptoms if you are worried about whether you or a loved one has COVID-19. You should check <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for more information. Call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are experiencing a medical emergency.

### Can I leave home to care for my elderly parents or friends who require assistance to care for themselves? Or a friend or family member who has disabilities?

Yes. Be extremely cautious when providing care to vulnerable people and ensure you protect them and yourself by following social distancing guidelines such as washing hands before and after, using hand sanitizer, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance, and coughing or sneezing into a tissue.

### Can I leave home to go to my church, synagogue, or mosque?

No. For your safety as well as the safety of your fellow worshippers, we need to help each other fight the spread of COVID-19 by staying at home. Places of worship may offer remote access to services, such as by emails, video streaming, or teleconference.

### Can I go on a walk, walk my dog or take a bike ride?

Yes. You can go outside for exercise so long as you maintain social distancing (more than 6 feet from persons who are not part of your household). This includes walks, hikes or bike rides.

### Can I go to a vet or pet hospital if my pet is sick?

Yes. Please call first to determine if the vet has any restrictions in place.

### Can and should I donate blood if I am healthy?

Yes, blood banks, blood donation centers, and blood drives are exempt healthcare operations. If you are healthy and do not have COVID-19 symptoms, you are encouraged to donate. The need for adequate blood donations from health people is critical.

*\*This document was prepared according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.*

For additional information visit [www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov](http://www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov)