

How we enforce Gov. Brown's Executive Order

We received questions regarding enforcement of Governor Brown's [Executive Order 20-12](#) "Stay Home, Save Lives." To provide clarity, the [Multnomah County Sheriff's Office](#) is offering guidance to frequently asked questions.

Are deputies arresting or ticketing people in violation of the Executive Order?

Our primary focus at MCSO is education over enforcement. While Governor Brown's order does allow law enforcement agencies to issue Class C misdemeanor citations with the option to arrest, these actions are reserved for only the most extreme cases and after at least one warning has been given. Our deputies are not being asked to detain, arrest, ticket or establish checkpoints for compliance. Instead, deputies have been encouraged to share public health information and offer resources to those who need them. You can find additional health messaging and operations updates on our social media accounts and website.

Note, law enforcement agencies in Oregon cannot use resources, personnel or equipment to enforce federal immigration laws. MCSO does not collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

What are examples of social gatherings, and how are they enforced?

Being outside is not a reason for being stopped. However, if children or adults are congregating in large groups, it is possible a deputy may approach them and initiate a conversation to share with the group why it's important to follow the order, and how they can keep themselves safe, their families safe, and most importantly, their community safe, including vulnerable populations.

It is essential to the health, safety and welfare of the community during the State of Emergency that, to the maximum extent possible, people stay at home and limit non-essential social and recreational gatherings where social distancing measures, (distancing of at least six feet between people), cannot be met. Examples of prohibited social gatherings include, but are not limited to:

- Sports events and recreational games

- Community events and social gatherings, including birthday parties and cultural or religious gatherings
- Weddings, baby showers and memorial services

Should people be approached by a deputy or police officer, we are asking for cooperation. We understand the measures may be challenging to follow. If an individual or group needs further assistance, deputies can connect them to local resources and organizations. We are here to help.

What activities can I do outside?

Oregonians can still recreate outdoors, if their recreational activity can maintain appropriate social distancing, which is defined as 6 feet or more from others, and it does not involve contact with others. People should be aware most day-use recreational areas, campgrounds and boat ramps are closed, so people should research their plans before recreating.

Should I call 911 if I see people congregating?

No. The level of this violation is not for reporting to police, fire or medical departments through 911. Individuals may choose to talk with their neighbors, while maintaining distancing measures. If an individual is uncomfortable with this option or a large gathering is noted, they may call our non-emergency number, (503) 823-3333. Police response may be determined by severity of compliance, what other calls deputies are assigned to and how many available units there are.

Is this martial law?

No. There are no curfews and movements are not restricted under the Governor's Executive Order.

Will I be pulled over for driving on the highway?

No. Driving on the highway is not a violation of the order. If, however, you are committing a traffic violation or crime that would be enforced independent of the order, you may be stopped, like any other day.

Are the state lines closed and are there roadblocks?

No, traffic is moving freely within Oregon and to our neighboring states. There are no roadblocks or travel restrictions. California and Washington are operating under a similar executive order from their governors, so travelers should be aware of these provisions when in their states.

Do I need a special placard on my car, when going to work or if I drive for work?

No. There is no special documentation or placards for people going to work or permitted activities.

Do I need documentation from my employer deeming me essential?

No. Deputies are not asking or looking for any type of special paperwork from your employer.

If my employer makes me go to work even if the business is closed? Will I be arrested?

The Governor's Executive Order lists the businesses that are prohibited from operating. If a business is not explicitly listed as one that is prohibited, it is allowed to operate as long as it can:

- Allow employees to telework, or
- If teleworking is not feasible, designate an employee to establish and implement social distancing policies, consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority, and
- Strictly enforce social distancing policies, ensuring those policies are maintained and followed.

The order prohibits the public from congregating at a closed business. However, if you work at a business that has been mandated to close to the public, the employer may still have work to do onsite. As long as employees are not conducting business that is prohibited by the Executive Order, and the business is enforcing strict social distancing policies, it is okay to still be at the worksite. No "passes" or paperwork are required.