

Reopen Elmore

Safer Apart Order General Information May 3, 2021

Governor Kay Ivey announced that Alabama's COVID-19 public health order will end Monday, May 31, 2021, and the state of emergency will end Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

The current Safer Apart order consists primarily of recommendations aligned with CDC guidance. However, specific guidance applies to two groups. Senior Citizen Centers must continue to follow guidelines issued by the Alabama Department of Senior Services. Hospitals and nursing homes must follow current guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with respect to visitation. Barring a great spike in COVID-19 cases, these last remaining requirements should be lifted with the expiration of this order on May 31.

[DOWNLOAD THE FULL ORDER](#)



Reopen Elmore Partners



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Recommendations for Individuals

Effective April 9, 2021, at 5:00 P.M., all individuals—and especially vulnerable persons—are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility in slowing the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Maintaining six feet of separation from persons of different households;
- Wearing a mask or other facial covering at all times when within six feet of a person from another household;
- Staying home if sick;
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces;
- Refraining from touching one's face;
- Sneezing or coughing into a tissue, or the inside of one's elbow; and
- Disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

Quarantine for Infected Persons

Effective immediately, any person who has tested positive for COVID-19—other than institutionalized persons—shall be quarantined to his or her place of residence for a period of time specified by the State Health Officer or his designee. Any person quarantined pursuant to this provision shall not leave his or her place of residence for any reason other than to seek necessary medical treatment. Any person requiring assistance while under quarantine may contact 2-1-1 by calling 2-1-1 or (888) 421-1266 or by accessing <https://www.211connectsalabama.org/>. While under quarantine, the person shall take precautions as directed by his or her health care provider or the Alabama Department of Public Health to prevent the spread of the disease to others.

Protections for Employees

Effective April 9, 2021, at 5:00 P.M., and unless otherwise specified by this order, all employers are encouraged to take reasonable steps, where practicable as work duties permit, to protect their employees by:

- Encouraging use of masks and facial coverings;
- Maintaining six feet of separation between employees (or, alternatively, maintaining separation between employees through an impermeable partition);
- Regularly disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces;
- Encouraging handwashing; and
- Preventing employees who are sick from coming into contact with other persons.

Protections for Customers, Constituents, Students, etc.

Effective April 9, 2021, at 5:00 P.M., and unless otherwise specified by this order, the operator of any business, government office, postsecondary educational institution, or other establishment open to the public is encouraged to take reasonable steps, where practicable, to protect its customers, constituents, or other guests by:

- Encouraging use of masks and facial coverings;
- Maintaining six feet of separation between persons from different households (or, alternatively, maintaining separation between such persons through an impermeable partition); and
- Regularly disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces.

Hospitals and Similar Institutions

Effective May 3, 2021, all Hospitals and Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities (including Assisted Living and Specialty Care Assisted Living Facilities) shall ensure that each patient or resident may be accompanied by caregivers or receive visits from visitors subject to reasonable restrictions imposed on the entrance of persons because of the COVID-19 county positivity rate, the facility's COVID-19 status, a patient's or resident's COVID-19 status, caregiver/visitor symptoms, lack of adherence to proper infection control practices, or other relevant factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with the current guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

In addition, each facility subject to this paragraph shall post in a conspicuous location at each public entrance a statement substantially similar to the following statement: By order of the Governor of Alabama and the State Health Officer, each patient or resident of this facility enjoys certain rights to have caregivers or visitors present, subject to reasonable restrictions and current guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. If you have questions, you may ask to inspect the facility's written policies concerning visitation.