

New Restrictions FAQs:

I heard Wake County is putting new restrictions in place for local businesses. What are they?

In response to the rising number of positive cases of COVID-19, Wake County is putting new restrictions in place to help stop the spread of coronavirus and protect the local healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

Wake County Board of Commissioners Chairman Greg Ford signed a new State of Emergency Declaration. The new declaration will require some business to close, prohibit gatherings of 50 people or more, change visitation practices at nursing homes and restrict the use of playground equipment at local parks.

Why is Wake County implementing new restrictions for businesses?

These actions are the next step in our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. By limiting the virus from infecting more people, we can protect our at-risk populations and help reduce the strain on our healthcare system.

How will these new restrictions help slow the spread of COVID-19?

By putting these new restrictions into effect, we're helping reduce public interaction and provide more opportunities to practice social distancing.

Where can businesses impacted by these changes find resources to help?

Wake County is partnering with the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and Wake County Economic Development to share resources with all businesses impacted by closures and service restrictions.

You can visit their [COVID-19 resource page](#) for more information.

What kinds of businesses are closing?

All non-essential businesses must close. This includes:

- Beauty and personal care facilities such as nail salons, barber shops, hair and tanning salons and spas;
- Tattoo shops;
- Massage establishments;
- Fitness clubs, studios and gyms;
- Concert venues, theaters, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums and large conference halls; and
- Retail facilities such as shopping malls and department stores.

What kinds of businesses will remain open?

Essential services and operations will remain open, although some may have reduced hours or limit capacity inside their facilities. Essential services include, but are not limited to:

- Public safety and emergency services (fire services, EMS, law enforcement)
- Healthcare services and clinics
- Businesses that provide food, shelter or critical social services

- Utilities and trash pick up
- Home maintenance/repair services
- Auto repair and trucking service centers
- Grocery stores, supermarkets and hardware stores
- Gas stations
- Pharmacies
- Post Offices
- Banks and financial institutions
- Laundromats
- Public transportation

Can I still visit parks or open spaces?

Yes! Our parks and nature preserves remain open to the public to enjoy. All public programs and events have been canceled through April 15, but the park grounds, greenways and trails are accessible. The use of playground equipment at public and private parks is restricted under these new rules.

What steps can employers take to reduce the risk of exposure to employees?

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that employers and employees use teleworking technologies to the greatest extent possible.

Additionally, employers should:

- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits; and
- Consider staggering start and end times to reduce large numbers of people coming together at the same time.

I have a relative in a nursing home. Will I still be able to visit them?

It depends. Under the new restrictions implemented by Wake County on March 22, nursing homes, long-term care facilities and assisted living centers are required to cease group activities that don't allow for social distancing.

Residents can only have one adult visitor per day, unless it is an end-of-life situation, and the visitor must be screened for fever of 100.4-degrees or higher, a cough and difficulty breathing before they can enter the building.

For everyone's safety, we're asking people to take advantage of technology, such as video calling, instead of making a visit in person.

Can I take my kids to the playground?

Wake County is prohibiting the use of playground equipment at publicly and privately-owned parks.

How long will these restrictions be in place?

The changes will remain in effect until April 30, although Wake County will continue to monitor the ever-changing landscape.

I've been laid off from work due to COVID-19 related closures. What can I do?

You can apply for unemployment by visiting the [N.C. Department of Commerce's website](#). Under Gov. Roy Cooper's executive order signed on March 17, unemployment benefits will be easier to access during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Update to main COVID-19 webpage:

Add under Chairman's March 13 SoE:

- On March 22, Chairman Ford signed a new State of Emergency declaration that included the closing of nonessential businesses until April 30. This declaration represents the next level of safeguards the county is putting in place to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.