

## 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 a warning has been given. Our deputies are not being asked to detain, arrest, ticket or establish checkpoints for compliance. During this health emergency, deputies are encouraged to share public health information and offer resources to those who need them. You will find additional health messaging and operations updates on our social media accounts and website.

### What if children or adults gather in a public place, such as a park?

Being outside is not probable cause for being stopped. However, if children or adults are congregating in large groups, it is possible a deputy may approach the individuals and initiate a conversation. Our deputies will 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, especially vulnerable populations. We recognize the measures may be challenging to follow. If an individual or group needs further assistance, deputies can connect them to local resources and organizations.

### Should I call 911 if I see people congregating?

No. The level of this violation is not for reporting police, fire or medical emergencies through 911. Individuals may choose to self-educate their fellow Oregonians, or if 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 citizen movements are not restricted under the Governor's Executive Order. While details are offered in the order relating to social distancing, specific business closures and non-essential social gatherings, citizen movements are generally unrestricted, as long as social distancing is maintained.

### **Will I be pulled over for driving on the highway?**

The Governor's Executive Order specifically outlines measures to keep people properly socially distanced and driving on the highway is not a violation of that 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 border states. There are no roadblocks or restrictions of vehicle movement. Washington State is operating under a similar executive order from their governor, so Oregonians should be aware of these provisions when traveling in their state.

### **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. The Governor's Executive Order closes certain businesses, outlined in section (2). These businesses' operational environments would make close contact difficult or impossible to avoid. Officers 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.

## Can I still go hiking and fishing?

Yes. Oregonians can still recreate outdoors, if their recreational activity involves non-contact with others and they can maintain appropriate social distancing, which is defined as 6 feet or more from others. People should be aware most day-use areas, campgrounds and boat ramps are closed, so people should research their plans before recreating.