

# Stay at Home Order Issued for Mecklenburg County in Response to COVID-19

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On Tuesday, March 24, Mecklenburg County issued a “stay at home order” in an attempt to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Charlotte and the surrounding communities. As of noon on Tuesday, the county is reporting 142 positive cases of novel coronavirus.

County Manager Dena Diorio announced the proclamation will take effect beginning **8 a.m., March 26** and will continue through **April 16**.

The order will allow Mecklenburg County residents to leave their homes for essential activities such as outdoor exercise, grocery shopping and picking up takeout from restaurants, but bans gatherings of more than 10 people in public and private. Services deemed essential as defined by the county order will be allowed to continue operation, permitting employees remain 6 feet apart. The essential services are as follows:

- Healthcare, public health, law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food, beverages and agriculture
- Stores that sell groceries and medicine
- Organizations that provide charitable and social
- Energy
- Water and wastewater
- Transportation and logistics
- Public works
- Communication and information technology
- Media
- Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation
- Financial institutions
- Hardware and supply stores
- Critical trades
- Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery and pick-up services
- Laundry services

- Restaurants for consumption off-premises
- Transportation
- Home-based care and services
- Residential facilities and shelters
- Professional services
- Childcare centers
- Manufacture, distribution and supply chain
- Hotels and motels
- Funeral services
- Other community-based government operations and essential functions including human services
- Other community-based human service operations
- Critical manufacturing
- Hazardous materials

To read the full proclamation, [click here](#).

To read the "stay at home" FAQ, [click here](#).

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