



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 25, 2020

NOTICE

District of Columbia Orders Closure of Non-Essential Businesses

To further combat the spread of COVID-19, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Muriel Bowser, has issued an order requiring the temporary closure of the on-site operations of all non-essential business and prohibits gatherings of ten or more people. All non-essential businesses in the District shall cease operations by 10:00PM on March 25, 2020. The order shall continue to be in effect through April 24, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by a subsequent order. Information concerning this action is available at https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/release_content/attachments/Mayor%27s%20Order%202020-053%20Closure%20of%20Non-Essential%20Businesses%20and%20Prohibiti...pdf.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the District of Columbia. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of the referenced order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- Coronavirus in Washington, DC: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador