



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 26, 2020

NOTICE

Maine Orders Closure of Non-Essential Businesses

To further combat the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of Maine, Janet Mills, has ordered that all non-essential businesses and operations in Maine close their physical locations that are public facing, meaning those that allow customer, vendor or other in-person contact. The Order also closes non-essential business sites that require more than ten workers to convene in a space where physical distancing is not possible. Non-essential businesses and operations may continue activities that do not involve these types of in-person contact and convenings, and should facilitate the maximum number of employees working remotely. The Order is currently in effect until April 8, 2020. The order is available at <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/sites/maine.gov.governor.mills/files/inline-files/An%20Order%20Regarding%20Essential%20Businesses%20and%20Operations%20.pdf>.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the state of Maine. 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 Governor’s 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

- COVID-19 in Maine: <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/covid-19>
- 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