



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 7, 2020

NOTICE

Reopening of Alabama/South Carolina/ Tennessee

The reopening of the economies and various other aspects of the States listed below has begun. The guiding principles behind the reopening include protecting public health, maintaining health care readiness, capability of reliable and accessible testing and the importance of prioritizing public-private collaboration. For comprehensive information regarding each state's plan for reopening, please visit the links provided.

Alabama: On April 28, Gov. Kay Ivey outlined her "Safer at Home" order, which went into effect April 30, immediately after Alabama's stay-at-home order expired. Alabamians flocked onto beaches and into previously shuttered retail stores after the order expired, although salons, on-site restaurant dining, and other places remained closed under a new state health order. Elective and non-emergency medical procedures are also being allowed to resume. The new order allows all retail businesses to open at 50% of their occupancy levels and abide by social distancing and sanitation measures. Gatherings are restricted to fewer than 10 people and visitors must observe 6 feet of distance from each other. Restaurants, bars and breweries will remain limited to take-out, curbside or delivery.

And night clubs, theaters, bowling alleys, gyms and fitness centers, hair salons, nail salons, tattoo parlors and other close-contact service providers will remain closed. Churches will stay closed and are encouraged to provide drive-in or online services. The governor's reopening guidance is available at: [Alabama Reopening Guidance](#)

South Carolina: Gov. Henry McMaster lifted a mandatory stay-home order May 4, the same day that outdoor dining at restaurants resumed. Clothing, department, furniture, jewelry and sporting goods stores, as well as florists and flea markets can reopen but will be forced to operate at reduced capacity. The closure on beaches will be lifted, though it will be up to local officials to decide on the reopening of specific beaches. The order still encourages social distancing directives to be

followed. nightclubs must remain closed for now. The State executive opening order is available at: [South Carolina Reopening Executive Order](#)

Tennessee: Governor Bill Lee reopened salons and barbershops May 6, the latest in a string of restrictions to be loosened in the state. Details of business restrictions in the order, which also continued the state of emergency, apply to all but six counties in the state. Previously, Governor Lee allowed for restaurants to reopen on April 27, many retailers on April 29 and gyms on May 1, each of which came with rules on limited capacity and suggested guidelines. Under Tennessee's plan, businesses in six counties – Davidson, Shelby, Knox, Hamilton, Madison and Sullivan – will not open until local officials sign off on their own reopening proposals. Nashville city officials plan to transition to the first phase of reopening the city on May 11, allowing restaurants and retail stores to open at half capacity, despite a recent increase in new coronavirus cases. The reopening executive order is available at: [Tennessee Reopening Executive Order](#)

On April 28, Lee issued an executive order extending the closure of bars and close-contact businesses through the end of May.

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:

Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>

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