
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 3, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

COVID-19 — GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS — MAY 20, 2020

Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, May 20, 2020

Governor Reynolds proclaimed a State of Disaster Emergency on March 9, 2020, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 following a national public health emergency declaration issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services on January 31, 2020, and multiple individuals within the State of Iowa testing presumptive positive for COVID-19. The Governor issued an additional Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 13, 2020, establishing a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency.

On May 20, 2020, the Governor issued an additional [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency](#), which, in addition to encouraging all vulnerable Iowans to limit activities outside the home, ordered the following measures to be effective immediately until the end of the Public Health Disaster Emergency or unless otherwise stated:

- Movie theaters may reopen under the following requirements:
 - The theater must limit its capacity to 50.0% of the normal operating capacity.
 - The theater must ensure at least six feet of physical distance between each group or individual attending alone when seated in the theater.
 - Self-service of food and beverages is prohibited.
 - The theater must also implement reasonable measures to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increase hygiene practices, and undertake other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Museums, aquariums, and zoos may reopen but must make reasonable efforts to ensure social distancing of employees and patrons, increase hygiene practices, and undertake other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Swimming pools as defined in Iowa Code section [135I.1](#) may reopen only for the purposes of lap swimming and conducting swimming lessons and only to the extent that the operators of the pool make reasonable efforts to ensure social distancing of employees and patrons, increase hygiene practices, and undertake other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Except for these limited purposes, all swimming pools and spas, wading pools, water slides, wave pools, spray pads, and bathhouses shall continue to be closed.
- Public or nonpublic schools as defined by Iowa Code section [280.2](#) may reopen for school-sponsored activities and learning effective June 1, 2020, to the extent that those activities are consistent with guidance of the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, as applicable.
- Wedding receptions may be held provided that the establishment hosting the wedding reception complies with all the requirements placed on restaurants in previous proclamations. Such a reception shall not be a violation of the prohibition on social, community, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people.
- Effective May 22, 2020, auctions may take place with up to 25 individuals in attendance. Auctions may begin to operate with more than 25 people present only if they are conducted outdoors and the auction organizer takes measures to ensure that each group or individual attending alone maintains at least 6 feet of physical distance.

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- Provisions of the Iowa Code requiring an applicant for a one-year temporary teaching license to provide the Board of Educational Examiners proof of an offer of a teaching position from a school district that can show it has made every reasonable and good faith effort to employ a teacher licensed under Iowa Code chapter [272](#) are temporarily suspended.
 - Provisions of the Iowa Code requiring administration of the Iowa Youth Survey every 2 years to students in grades 6, 8, and 11 in Iowa's public and nonpublic schools are temporarily suspended.
 - Provisions of the Iowa Code requiring a \$25 penalty for each month or fraction thereof that the registration for a swimming pool or spa is not received by the Department of Public Health by April 30 are temporarily suspended, and the Department is directed to refund penalties already paid for the registration period that began on May 1, 2020.

For additional information regarding the Proclamation of a State Disaster Emergency, see the Legislative Service Agency's [Legal Background Briefing](#).

LSA Staff Contact: Christopher Ubben (515.725.0134) chris.ubben@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1136378