

EMPLOYMENT ALERT

Massachusetts Temporarily Closes All Non-Essential Businesses

March 2020

On March 23, Governor Baker issued an order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “Covid-19 Essential Services” to close their brick-and-mortar operations at noon Tuesday, March 24 through noon on Tuesday, April 7, though they may continue to operate remotely.

[Exhibit A to the Order](#) designates certain production and service sectors as “Covid-19 Essential Services,” with the workforces engaged and working in these sectors designated as “Covid-19 Essential Workforces.”

Businesses designated as providing essential services are “urged to continue operations during the state of emergency” but must implement social distancing protocols consistent with guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Businesses not designated as providing essential services are “encouraged to continue operations where they are able to operate through remote means...”. Note that, according to the Order, Governor Baker may amend the list of businesses on Exhibit A as necessary to reflect changes in conditions as they develop.

The Order further provides the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with the authority to enforce the terms of the Order, as assisted by State or municipal police. Violations of terms of the Order may result in a criminal penalty pursuant to M.G.L. c. 639, §8, or a civil fine of up to \$300 per violation.

CONTACT

Please contact a member of our [Employment Law Practice](#) to discuss anything contained in this alert or any employment law issues affecting you or your business.