



Grand Traverse County Public Health Officer Emergency Order GT-2020-1 Q&A

Q: Does this order apply to “critical infrastructure employees and businesses”?

A: Yes, this order applies to all essential businesses still open which are also considered “critical infrastructure”.

Q: Will I get fined or jailed if I don’t comply?

A: If you don’t comply, the short answer is yes. However, we are hoping to build a partnership with businesses that have questions with the Emergency Order to assist them with compliance. We appreciate the essential businesses and their employees that continue to operate and keep us going during this time. We are hoping that these measures will decrease the likelihood of your business and your customers spreading COVID-19. We have successfully followed up on many complaints already that were addressed with a conversation or additional guidance.

Q. The Emergency Order went into effect rather quickly with no warning, when am I expected to implement it into my business?

A: We understand that there was little notice given prior to the Emergency Order going into effect. However, we also needed to take quick action to implement anticipating that more people would be conducting essential shopping for the holiday weekend. To slow and reduce the potential spread of COVID 19 all steps should be taken to comply with social distancing and screening essential workers.

Q: Does this supersede the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order?

A: The Grand Traverse County Public Health Officer Emergency Order GT-2020-1 aligns with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-42, which include essential businesses that remain operating abide by social distancing guidelines, including allowing employees that work remotely to do so, keeping both employees and customers at least six feet apart, increasing facility cleanliness, adopting policies that prevent ill employees or employees that have had contact with a positive COVID-19 case from entering the premises.

Q: If a person lives in the same household as someone potentially exposed are they required to stay home if the member of their household has not shown symptoms?

A: If you live in the household with someone that may or may not have been exposed, you should self monitor for symptoms. Depending on exposure of the family member, they should either self quarantine for 14 days after the exposure occurred, or if there was limited risk associated with the exposure, self monitor for 14 days after the contact.

Q: There appears to be a thermometer shortage. Do you know of anywhere we can purchase personal thermometers for screening?

A: If you can not find touchless thermometers for use during screening at work, you may ask that employees take temperatures and report them to the employee in charge of screening prior to beginning their shift.

Q: When screening employees, some have indicated that they typically have a chronic cough due to underlying health conditions. Is there leeway for that in this order?

A: When asking those screening questions, you should be looking for atypical/unusual symptoms from their normal baseline. So, someone with a chronic cough (caused by some types of medicine, people with asthma, tobacco users, etc.) or chronic intestinal issues (such as IBS, Crohn's Disease, etc.) do not necessarily need to be sent home. However, if they have a combination of those symptoms and a fever, you will probably want to send them home to be on the safe side.

The same is true for fevers. Normal body temperatures can vary. The CDC guideline is a fever of 100.4 degrees to 104.00 degrees (for COVID19). However, some people may feel feverish (also one of the questions on the screening) at 99.9 degrees.

Q: My employers aren't following the Grand Traverse County Public Health Emergency Order 2020-1, what should I do?

A: For questions and concerns, you can call the Grand Traverse County Public Health Emergency Order 2020-1 Hotline at 995-6800 or you can fill out the **Noncompliance Reporting Form** that can be found on the Grand Traverse County Health Department's COVID-19 webpage, <http://gtchd.org/2231/COVID-19-Novel-Coronavirus>.