



TOWN OF ESSEX
Office of the Fire Marshal
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April 7, 2020

ORDER

COVID-19 Safe Store Rules

In response to the COVID-19 situation, Effective immediately, all retail establishments shall follow the guidelines of The Safe Store Rules as outlined below:

Safe Stores Mandatory Statewide Rules, Amending Executive Order No. 7N, Sec. 3. Effective upon the opening of each retail establishment for the first time on April 3, 2020, every retail establishment in the State of Connecticut shall take additional protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between and among customers, employees, and other persons such as delivery drivers or maintenance people. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall issue mandatory statewide rules prescribing such additional protective measures no later than 11 :59 p.m. on April 1, 2020. SUCH RULES SHALL BE MANDATORY THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND SHALL SUPERSEDE AND PREEMPT ANY CURRENT OR FUTURE MUNICIPAL ORDER and shall supersede the requirements of Executive Order No. 7N, Sec. 3, providing that nothing in this order shall eliminate or reduce the requirements of Executive Order No. 7N, Sec. 3 regarding firearms transactions.

Statewide Rules

- Occupancy capped at 50% of store capacity not including employees. At entrance, staff will maintain a count of the number of customers entering and exiting stores (This does not include food establishments that are ordered by the local health official for takeout only reducing 1 person at a time in the establishment).
- Clearly mark 6' spacing in lines on floor at checkout lines and other high-traffic areas and, as much as practicable, provide ways to encourage 6' spacing in lines outside the store.
- Post conspicuous signage and floor markings to direct customers and limit bottlenecks and/or encourage spacing and flow in high-density areas.
- Have aisles be one-way in stores where practicable to maximize spacing between customers. Identify the one-way aisles with conspicuous signage and/or floor markings.

General

- Communicate with customers through in store signage, and public service announcements and advertisements, there should only be one person per household during shopping trips, whenever possible.

- Discontinue all self-serve foods (e.g., salad bar, olive bar) and product sampling.
- Allow “touchless” credit card transactions. If not possible, sanitize credit card machines (including pen) regularly and consistently.
- Cart and basket handles sanitized between uses (by staff).
- Wherever possible, employees will wear gloves and face masks at all times that they are interacting with customers and/or handling products.

- Maximize space between customers and employees at checkout lines, including, but not limited to, only using every other checkout line, where and when possible

- Install Plexiglas shields to separate employees from customers at checkout lines and other areas in the store where practicable.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John A. Planas
Fire Marshal

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