

# Governor Ducey issues Stay-at-home order for Arizona

Michael Manny, Online Editor

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has issued a stay-at-home order for the state that will go in effect Tuesday, March 31 at 5 p.m. until April 30.

The declaration is referred to in the executive order as “Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected.”

The order asks residents to limit their time away from home except to participate in “essential activities,” employment to volunteer in essential functions, to use services provided by essential businesses, or for employment as a sole proprietor, or family-business that is a separate place from home that is not open to the public for serving.

“Our order takes a uniquely Arizona approach. It’s a holistic approach that prioritizes all of public health,” Ducey said in a press conference with state officials. “Placing a focus on staying home, to slow the spread, staying healthy and active, and staying connected, to provide the much needed support we can provide one another.”

Grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential businesses will remain open, and restaurants can continue takeout service.

The Governor’s office provided additional guidance on businesses that will be considered essential services April 3. By April 4 at 5 p.m. Barbers, cosmetology, hair, nail and aesthetic salons, tattoo parlors, tanning salons, spas and massage parlors must close. Under the original March 23 executive order, these businesses were considered essential

Citizens will not need to give documentation or proof for justification of activities, according to the order.

During the April 2 virtual town hall with state officials that was broadcast on Arizona TV and radio stations however, Ducey discussed enforcement of the order for those not following it.

“If someone is not listening to the order, law enforcement can suggest that they begin listening to the order, and if they don’t, they’re going to have a class one misdemeanor, which is a \$2500 fine and up to six months in jail, and we will enforce that,” Ducey said.

The March 30 order also details that going outside for activities such as golfing, hiking and biking are considered essential if physical distancing is practiced.

“We do not want people to feel trapped or isolated in their homes,” Ducey said. “The weather’s beautiful right now, find a way to get out and enjoy it – with physical distancing.”

The Arizona Department of Health Services reports that there are now 2,019 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state and 52 deaths as of April 4.



Gage Skidmore/Flickr

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has issued a stay-at-home order due to the continuing COVID-19 outbreak.

“With widespread transmission of COVID-19 in our state and increased testing, we know these numbers will only continue to increase,” ADHS Director Dr. Cara Christ said.

Earlier in the day, Ducey and Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman announced that schools will be closed for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Schools originally were set to be closed until April 10 after a two-week extension.

Prior to the governor’s announcement, Nine mayors from around Arizona, including Kate Gallego of Phoenix and Regina Romero of Tucson, sent a letter requesting Ducey to enact a Stay-At-Home order.

“This order is insufficient if he (Ducey) does not narrow his list of ‘essential services,’ Gallego said in a tweet. “Essential services during COVID-19 are not golf and beauty salons. They are first responders, grocers, pharmacists and few others.”

Movie theaters, bars and gyms are among the businesses that have been required to close around the state.

\*This story has been updated with updated information from ADHS, Governor’s Ducey’s office and information from the April 2 virtual town hall.