

Frequently Asked Questions
(Current as of April 2, 2020, 2020 at 12:00 noon)

1. I live outside of Haywood County, but work in the county. How does this affect me?

If you work in Haywood County, then your business/employer must comply with this proclamation: Essential Businesses stay open and you can travel to and from them. Non-essential businesses are closed, except to undertake Minimum Basic Operations. You are allowed to travel through Haywood County and conduct Essential Activities within Haywood County and to return home.

2. I live in Haywood County but work outside of the county. How does this affect me?

You can travel for Essential Work or Essential Activities outside Haywood County. Once you leave the county, your travel may be affected by the State proclamation, which is similar to the Haywood County proclamation, in defining what sort of travel is allowed.

3. Am I allowed to travel?

You are allowed to travel for purposes of essential business and essential activities.

4. Do I need a letter or document that authorizes me to travel for Essential Travel?

No. You do not need any such document. The county is not issuing any document authorizing Essential Travel.

5. Do I need a document from the county that identifies my business as “Essential”?

No. The county is not issuing any document to classify a business as “Essential” or otherwise.

6. Is there a curfew associated with the Proclamations?

No.

7. Am I allowed to go outside to exercise?

Yes – but maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from all others.

8. I live in Canton, Clyde, Waynesville or Maggie Valley – does this order apply to me?

Yes – this order applies to all persons within Haywood County.

9. My business sells some things that are “Essential” and some things that aren’t on the “Essential” list. Can my whole business stay open if we practice Social Distancing?

As presently written, the proclamations allow an Essential Business to sell things that are both essential and non-essential. All businesses that are open are required to establish rules for Social Distancing, including marking off six-foot distances in the cashier line.

10. Must Essential Businesses limit the number of customers in the building at any one time?

The Proclamations require open businesses to meet Social Distancing requirements, to the extent practicable. The county proclamation requires businesses to mark off the six-foot Social Distance sections at the checkout line.

There is no required formula for the number of customers in a business, but to meet the Social Distancing standard, one formula is based on the Social Distancing area, which is six feet between persons. This formula is applied by taking 133 square feet (which is roughly the area of a six-foot circle) and

dividing it into the area publicly available in the business. For example, a business that has 6,000 square feet available for access by the public would be practicing the Social Distancing standard if no more than 45 persons (customers and employees) were present (formula: 6,000 square feet divided by 133 sq. ft. per person = 45 persons allowed in the space).

11. My business is closed because it is non-essential. Can I go in and clean it up and reorganize it?

Both the state and county proclamations authorize even closed businesses to conduct **Minimum Basic Operations**, which are “the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, preserve the condition of . . . physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.”

12. How will the proclamation be enforced?

We understand it may take a while for residents and business owners to become fully familiar with the new proclamation. During that time, law enforcement officials will be working with county officials to answer questions and direct inquiries to official sources of information, such as the county’s website, www.haywoodcountync.gov or the COVID-19 call center (828) 356-2019.

We understand this is an extremely difficult time for our citizens and we are working together as a community to get through this. The measures being taken are to further efforts to protect those who are at high risk and to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Law enforcement agencies in Haywood County are not seeking to punish citizens who are simply trying to adjust to drastic changes in their lives. County and municipal officials are dedicated to educating individuals in every way possible on the intent behind these changes. Again, law enforcement agencies throughout Haywood County want to work with citizens as we go through this process by using education, warning and advisement as much as possible.

There are high hopes that citizens will voluntarily comply with measures, demonstrating a common goal of flattening the curve and moving forward. If persistent, non-compliant actions are observed or reported, law enforcement will need to address the issue as outlined in the proclamation.

A violation of a duly adopted proclamation of emergency is a Class 2 misdemeanor, punishable by up to sixty days in jail or a \$1,000 fine. N.C.G.S. Section 166A-19.31(h).

13. My business is listed as Essential on the Governor's Proclamation but not listed as Essential in the County's list (or the other way around). Can I stay open?

The Governor's proclamation establishes that in a situation where there is both a county and a state list of Essential Businesses or Operations, the **more restrictive list applies**. Here is a breakdown:

Businesses **on** Haywood County's Essential List (can stay open) but are **not on** Governor's Essential List (and therefore must close):

1. Since the Governor's list is more restrictive, the business **must close** UNLESS the business could qualify to stay open using the Governor's Social Distancing Exception (Section 2. C. 1. on the Governor's Proclamation).

The Social Distancing exception in the Governor's proclamation is for businesses that can conduct operations while maintaining Social Distancing Requirements: a. between and among its employees and, b. between and among employees and customers except at the point of sale.

Businesses **on** Governor's Essential List (can stay open) but are **not on** Haywood County's Essential List (and therefore must close):

1. Since Haywood County’s list is more restrictive, the business **should close** UNLESS the business qualifies to stay open for limited purposes. The best example is motels and short-term rentals in Haywood. Haywood has a more restrictive list, and requires these businesses to not accept non-essential travelers, but the same businesses are OPEN for essential travel and essential business purposes.

Decision tree shortcut:

<u>Is business on Governor’s Essential List?</u>	<u>Is business on County Essential List?</u>	<u>Can stay open?</u>
YES	NO	No, unless qualifies to stay open for limited purpose, like motels
NO	YES	No, unless can qualify to stay open by meeting Social-Distancing-Rules exception in the Governor’s proclamation