

Virginia Governor Northam Announces New Statewide Measures to Contain COVID-19

Includes limit of 25 individuals for in-person gatherings, expanded mask mandate, on-site alcohol curfew, and increased enforcement

November 16, 2020

Virginia is averaging 1,500 newly-reported COVID-19 cases per day, up from a statewide peak of approximately 1,200 in May.

“COVID-19 is surging across the country, and while cases are not rising in Virginia as rapidly as in some other states, I do not intend to wait until they are. We are acting now to prevent this health crisis from getting worse,” **said Governor Northam**. “Everyone is tired of this pandemic and restrictions on our lives. I’m tired, and I know you are tired too. But as we saw earlier this year, these mitigation measures work. I am confident that we can come together as one Commonwealth to get this virus under control and save lives.”

Per Amended Executive Orders 63 and 67,
the following measures took effect in Virginia at
midnight on Sunday, November 15:

Reduction in public and private gatherings: All public and private in-person gatherings must be **limited to 25 individuals**, down from the current cap of 250 people. **This includes outdoor and indoor settings.**

The governor's office says the new restrictions DO NOT apply to schools or churches. They will also not further limit the capacity at private offices, gyms and businesses. They will also not apply to sports. For recreational, youth and high-school sports, spectators are limited to 25 spectators per field or 30 percent of the venue's occupancy load, whichever is fewer.

College athletics are considered sports venues under the "entertainment and public amusement" guidelines. They are also limited to 250 persons or 30 percent of the venue's occupancy load, whichever is fewer.

The governor's office has also clarified that there will be no changes to how fitness classes and gyms operate. They will remain operating at 75 percent capacity with a limit of 25 people per fitness class.

Violators will be subject to a Class 1 Misdemeanor
Amended Executive Order 67

Expansion of mask mandate: All Virginians **aged five and over** are required to wear face coverings in **indoor public spaces**. This expands the current mask mandate, which has been in place in Virginia since May 29 and requires all individuals aged 10 and over to wear face coverings in indoor public settings.

Violators will be subject to a Class 1 Misdemeanor
Amended Executive Order 63

Strengthened enforcement within essential retail businesses:

All essential retail businesses, **including grocery stores and pharmacies**, must adhere to statewide guidelines for physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and enhanced cleaning. While certain essential retail businesses have been required to adhere to these regulations as a best practice, **violations will now be enforceable through the Virginia Department of Health as a Class One misdemeanor.**

Violators will be subject to a Class 1 Misdemeanor

Amended Executive Order 67

On-site alcohol curfew: The on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol is **prohibited after 10:00 p.m.** in any restaurant, dining establishment, food court, brewery, microbrewery, distillery, winery, or tasting room. **All restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms must close by midnight.** Virginia law does not distinguish between restaurants and bars, however, under current restrictions, individuals that choose to consume alcohol prior to 10:00 p.m. must be served as in a restaurant and remain seated at tables six feet apart.

Violators will be subject to a Class 1 Misdemeanor
Amended Executive Order 67

Amended Order 67 also lays out specific guidelines for other businesses:

- Farmer's Markets
- Non-Essential Brick and Mortar Retail
- Fitness and Exercise Facilities
- Personal Care and Grooming
- Campgrounds
- Indoor Shooting Ranges
- Public Beaches
- Racetracks and Speedways
- Large Outdoor Amusement Parks and Zoos
- Entertainment and Amusement Businesses
- Recreational Sports

Violators will be subject to a Class 1 Misdemeanor

Essential Retail Businesses: Essential retail businesses as set out below may continue to remain open during their normal business hours.

- a. Grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retailers that sell food and beverage products or pharmacy products, including dollar stores, and department stores with grocery or pharmacy operations;
- b. Medical, laboratory, and vision supply retailers;
- c. Electronic retailers that sell or service cell phones, computers, tablets, and other communications technology;
- d. Automotive parts, accessories, and tire retailers as well as automotive repair facilities;
- e. Home improvement, hardware, building material, and building supply retailers;

Essential Retail Businesses allowed to stay open, *continued...*

- f. Lawn and garden equipment retailers;
- g. Beer, wine, and liquor stores;
- h. Retail functions of gas stations and convenience stores;
- i. Retail located within healthcare facilities;
- j. Banks and other financial institutions with retail functions;
- k. Pet and feed stores;
- l. Printing and office supply stores; and
- m. Laundromats and dry cleaners.

Amended Executive Order 67

Essential Retail Businesses (those listed above):

Must comply with the **Guidelines for All Business Sectors (Phase Three)** expressly incorporated by. Employers are required to provide face coverings to employees. **If any such business cannot adhere to these requirements, it must close.**

Phase Three guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Forward-Virginia-Phase-Three-Guidelines-November-2020.pdf>

Amended Executive Orders 63 and 67 can be found here:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>

Class 1 Misdemeanor in Virginia

Class 1 misdemeanors are the most serious misdemeanor offenses in Virginia. Offenses that are more serious than Class 1 misdemeanors are felonies. The maximum penalties for a Class 1 Misdemeanor conviction include:

- Up to 12 months in jail,
- Fine of up to \$2,500, or
- Both

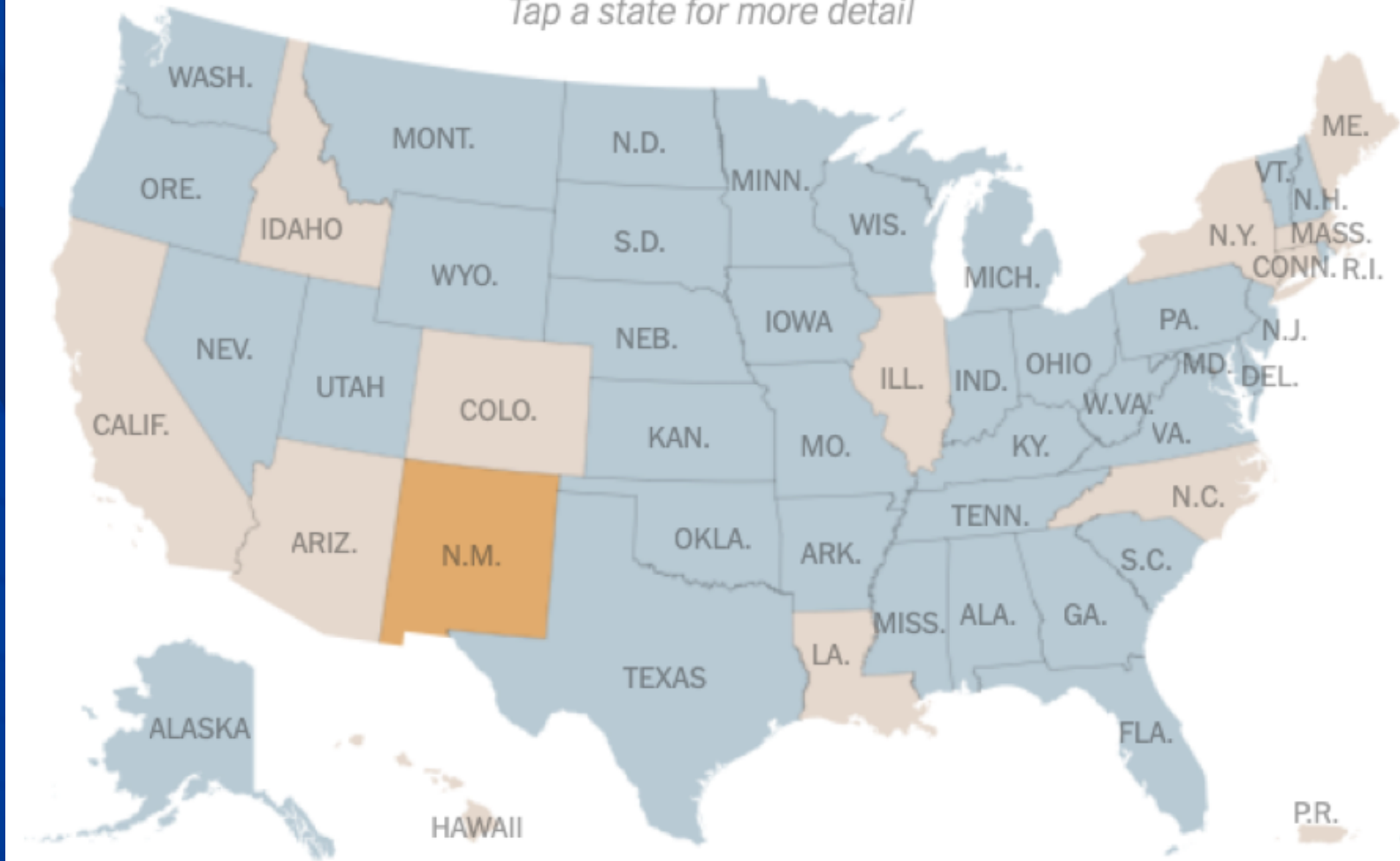


New Regulations: A Look Around the Country

Businesses

Mostly open Mixed Mostly closed

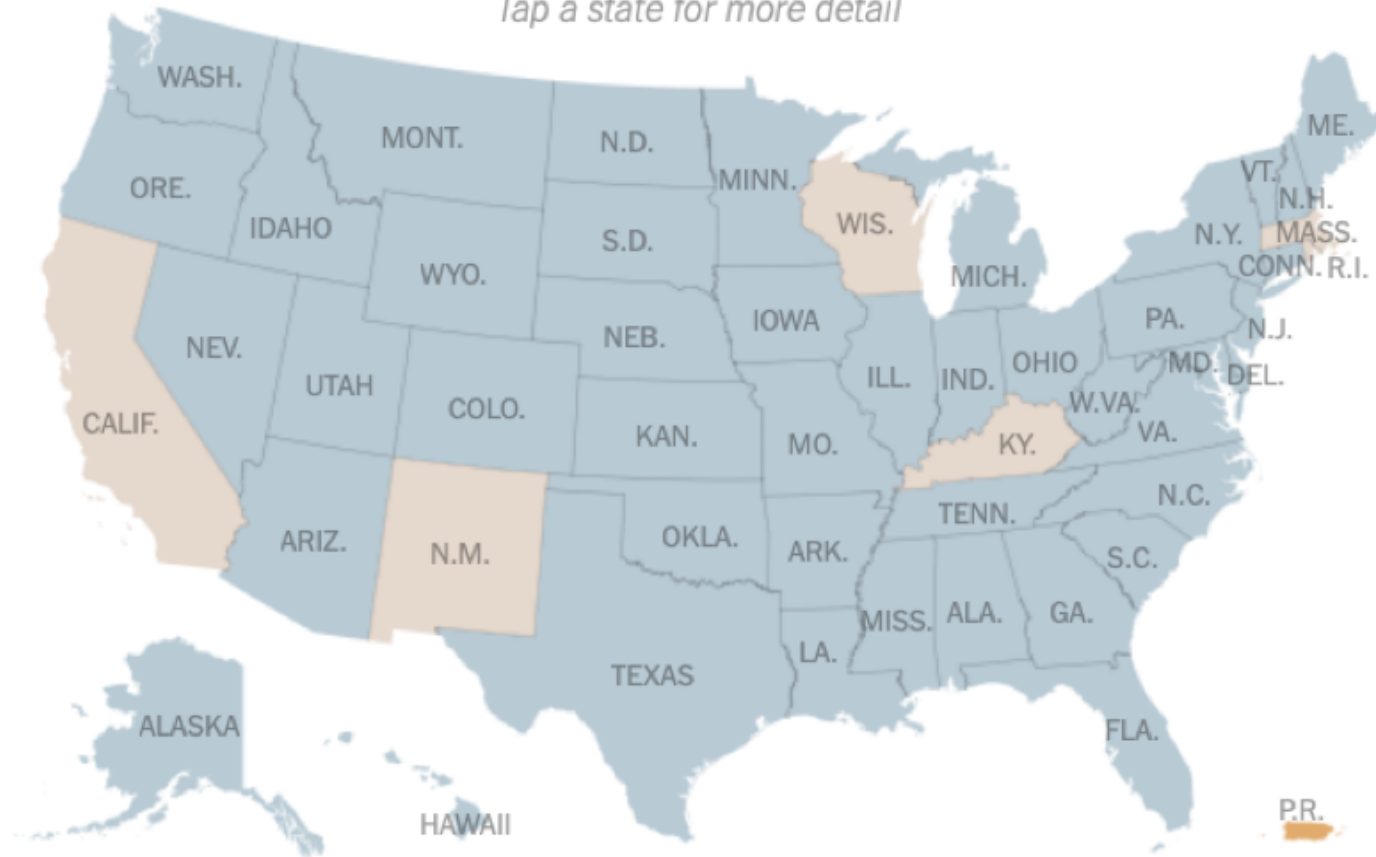
Tap a state for more detail




Stay-at-home orders

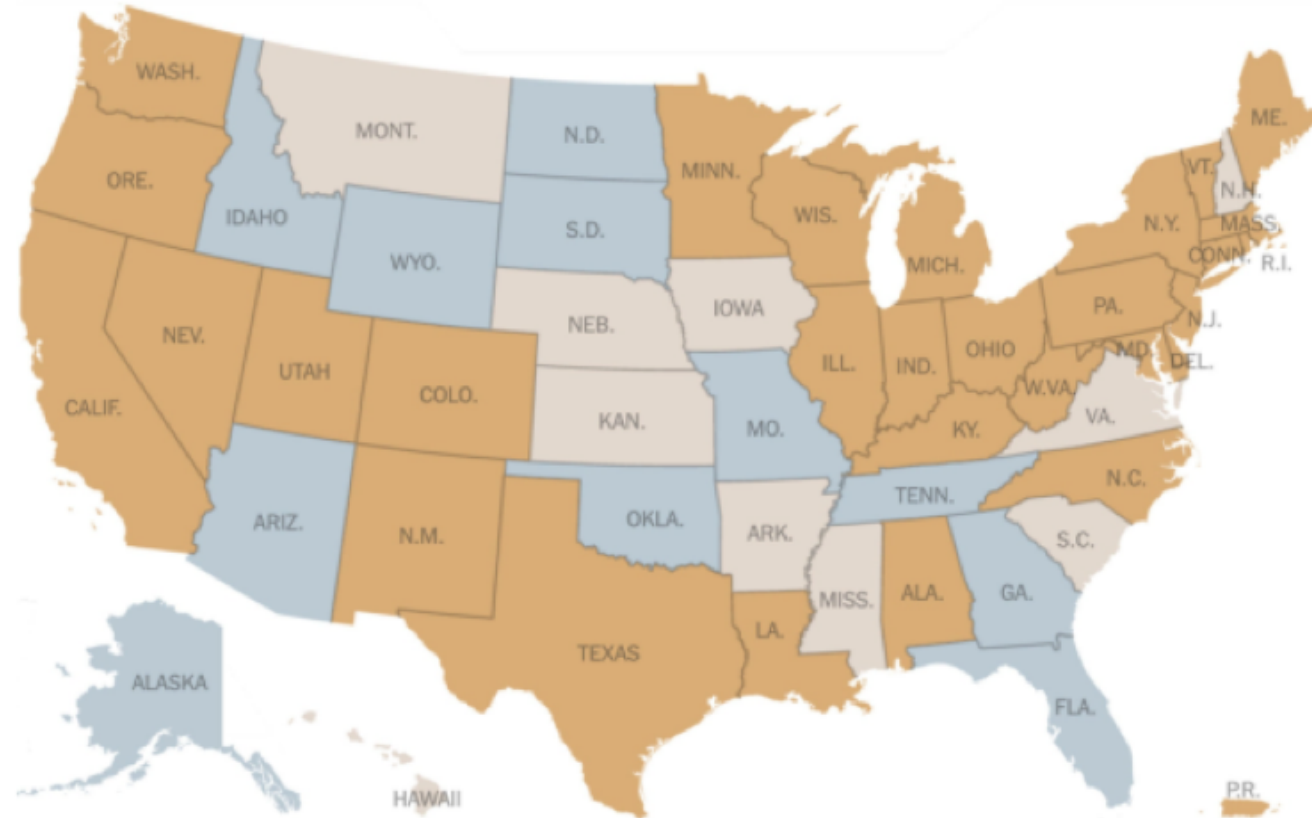
■ No restrictions ■ Advisory ■ Order or curfew

Tap a state for more detail



These are the restrictions and mask mandates for all 50 states. 

Masks  No restrictions  Sometimes required  Mandatory



Traveling across state lines and Quarantine/Covid Testing Requirements and Penalties

To keep the coronavirus outbreak from spreading through their regions, more than a dozen states and the District of Columbia ask or require out-of-state visitors to self-quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. But rules vary widely and change with the COVID-19 numbers, and states have different penalties, if any, for noncompliance and definitions of what quarantine means.

There is no uniform message across the states, and that makes it extremely difficult for travelers

<https://www.aarp.org/travel/travel-tips/safety/info-2020/state-quarantine-guide.html>

We are answering your questions live on the air right now.

Please submit questions through the **Q&A function**,
not the chat option at the bottom of your screen.



Questions?

Please email:

questions@dominionpayroll.com



As requirements change and laws are passed, we will update you as soon as possible.

Don't forget to wash your hands!

