

Broward County Phase 1 Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

1. *When does Phase 1 start for Broward County?*

The Governor's Executive Order 20-122 permits Broward County to participate in the Phase 1 reopening of Florida as of Monday, May 18, 2020. The Broward County [Emergency Order 20-10](#) is also effective Monday, May 18, 2020.

2. *Social Distancing: When do the social distancing requirements apply?*

Whenever you are outside your home, you should keep at least six feet between you and any person who does not live in your household.

3. *Facial Coverings: Who has to wear them and when? Are there any exceptions?*

Facial coverings help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help keep you and those around you safe. Facial coverings are in addition to, and not a substitute for, the required social distancing. Absent an express exception, facial coverings must be worn by:

- Workers during in-person interactions with the public.
- Persons obtaining any good or service from an open business or establishment.
- Restaurant workers while preparing food, unless doing so would pose a hazard or health risk.
- All other persons required to wear facial coverings under Broward County Emergency Orders 20-07 and 20-08.

The only exceptions are children of any age while in the custody of childcare facilities, children under the age of 2, persons who have difficulty breathing, certain public safety personnel, and persons for whom wearing a facial covering is subject to a religious objection. For additional details see Broward County [Emergency Order 20-07](#), Broward County [Emergency Order 20-08](#), and Broward County [Emergency Order 20-10](#).

4. *What is permitted to open during Phase 1 for Broward County?*

Beginning on May 18, 2020, the following businesses and establishments are open in whole or in part subject to certain limitations such as occupancy limits, sanitation requirements, and other requirements:

- All businesses ("essential services" and "essential businesses") that were previously permitted to operate pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-91, as amended, and Broward County [Emergency Order 20-06](#).
- Amenities permitted under Broward County [Emergency Order 20-08](#) (golf courses, marinas, pools and pool decks in housing developments, and parks) subject to the guidelines set forth in Emergency Order 20-08.
- Restaurants and food establishments.
- Retail stores selling goods or other commodities.
- Certain licensed personal services businesses (barbers, cosmetologists; nail specialists; facial specialist; hair braiders/wrappers).
- Existing licensed drive-in movie theaters (The Swap Shop Drive-In Movie Theater is the only drive-in movie theater with an existing license in Broward County).
- Public community pools and private club pools.
- Museums.

Please note that these establishments are not required to open. If an establishment does open, it may choose to impose stricter requirements on its employees or customers. To determine if a particular business is open and what requirements may apply to employees or customers of that business, please reach out to the business directly.

5. *May municipalities impose additional, stricter limitations?*

Yes. Municipalities may have stricter limitations than the County. Municipalities may also relax certain outdoor seating code restrictions to allow restaurants to expand their outdoor seating areas.

6. *Must the owner of an establishment be present to ensure compliance with the guidelines set forth in the County's emergency orders?*

No, the owner is not required to be present, but the business is only permitted to operate in compliance with the requirements of the applicable Broward County Emergency Orders. Prior to opening, the business must have established protocols to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements.

7. *Are all gyms and fitness centers open?*

No, commercial gyms and fitness centers remain closed pursuant to Broward County Emergency Order 20-10. Only gyms and fitness centers located within multi-family housing developments or community associations may open, subject to the limitations of Broward County Emergency Order 20-10. While the Governor's Executive Order 20-123 permits counties to reopen other gyms and fitness centers, commercial gyms and fitness centers are not open in Broward County at this time.

8. *Are all restaurants and retail businesses required to open?*

No. While restaurants and retail businesses are permitted to open subject to certain occupancy and other limitations, businesses are not required to open. Other considerations may influence whether a business determines it can safely reopen. Please contact the restaurant or retail business directly for more information.

9. *What are the current restaurant occupancy limits?*

Indoor seating areas are limited to 50% maximum capacity of the establishment. The combined total number of persons present in the indoor and outdoor areas must not exceed the combined total maximum capacity as stated in the restaurant's certificate of occupancy. If the certificate of occupancy does not state a maximum capacity, the applicable limit is the maximum occupancy posted at the establishment per the Florida Building Code and Fire Prevention Code. For example, if a restaurant capacity limit is 100 patrons and the restaurant has 10 employees (note: employees are not included in the calculation), the restaurant can sit 50 patrons indoors and 50 patrons outdoors, or 30 patrons indoors and 70 patrons outdoors. Per the Governor's Executive Order 20-123, employees are excluded from the calculations.

10. *Do occupancy limits apply to businesses that were already operating prior to Broward County entering Phase 1?*

No. Businesses that were allowed to operate prior to May 18, 2020, may continue to operate without occupancy limitations.

11. *Is the mall open? Is the food court at the mall open?*

Retail establishments are permitted to open subject to a 50% occupancy limitation, but are not required to open. Mall operators or individual stores may decide whether or not to open. Food courts at malls are permitted to reopen, subject to the limitations on restaurants and other food establishments found in

Attachment 2 to Broward County Emergency Order 20-10. Please contact the retail establishment directly for more information on its status.

12. *Are beaches open?*

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-90 (extended by Emergency Order 20-114) and Broward County Emergency Order 20-09, beaches remain closed at this time. The County is working with local municipalities and neighboring counties to ensure that beaches are reopened at an appropriate time and in a safe manner.

13. *Are pools open?*

Multi-family housing development pools (HOA, condominium pools, etc.) were permitted to open subject to the requirements of Broward County Emergency Order 20-08. All other pools and pool decks located within private clubs (such as YMCAs, yacht clubs, etc.), and county or municipal pools, may operate subject to the requirements of Broward County Emergency Order 20-10. Pools that are part of a commercial fitness facility are not open at this time. Hotel pools are also not open (except for pools in condominium hotels as stated in Broward County Emergency Order 20-08). Any particular HOA, condominium, private club, or community pool may choose to remain closed, and the decision to reopen may be subject to internal rules or regulations of that organization. For more information about the status of a pool located at any of the above mentioned amenity, please reach out directly to the owner, operator, property manager, or governing board of such amenity.

14. *Are pet groomers allowed to open?*

No. Pet groomers are not included in the licensed personal services permitted under Emergency Order 20-10. The only licensed personal services permitted are those allowed under the Governor's Executive Order 20-120: barbers, cosmetologists; nail specialists; facial specialist; hair braiders/wrappers. For more information, see the [Department of Business & Professional Regulation FAQs](#).

15. *Are realtors and other real estate related businesses allowed to operate?*

Yes, residential and commercial real estate services were permitted services under the Governor's Executive Order 20-91, and are allowed to operate, including in-person showings, inspections, and closings, provided they operate in accordance with Broward County Emergency Order 20-10, including Attachment 1 thereto and the CDC guidelines on social distancing and facial coverings.

16. *Can places of worship open? How are religious organizations impacted by Broward County's participation in Phase 1?*

Religious organizations continue to be strongly urged to follow CDC Guidelines, including the use of facial coverings, and to limit their gatherings to groups of no more than ten (10) people. However, there are no restrictions on religious services under the current orders.

17. *Are hotels open in Broward County? What about vacation rentals?*

Broward County's hotels and motels remain open but only for essential lodgers, including members of the National Guard, medical personnel, and others assisting with COVID-19 response, pursuant to Broward County's Emergency Order 20-06 and the Governor's Executive Orders 20-89 and 20-91. Hotels and motels in Broward County are unable to accept new reservations at this time. Vacation rentals continue to be prohibited pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders 20-87, as extended, and Executive Order 20-123.

18. What are the consequences of violating an Emergency Order? How do I report a violation of the Emergency Orders?

Violations of an Emergency Order are a second-degree misdemeanor subject to fines up to \$500, imprisonment up to 60 days, or both. If you know or suspect that a particular establishment is in violation of an applicable order, you should report the suspected violation to 311 or to the applicable local [municipal code enforcement](#).

19. How can I contact the County if I have any questions or comments about COVID-19 or the County's Emergency Orders?

Call the COVID-19 Hotline at (954) 357-9500.

Last updated: May 15, 2020