



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF AN EMERGENCY RULE

AGENCY: Health TITLE-SERIES: 64-114

RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: No

RULE NAME: Public Health Standards for Businesses
Remaining Open During the COVID-19 Outbreak

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR PROMULGATING EMERGENCY RULE:

16-3-1, 16-1-4, and 29A-3-15

IF THE EMERGENCY RULE WAS PROMULGATED TO COMPLY WITH A TIME LIMIT ESTABLISHED BY CODE OR FEDERAL STATUTE OR REGULATION, CITE THE CODE PROVISION, FEDERAL STATUTE OR REGULATION AND TIME LIMIT ESTABLISHED THEREIN:

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THE ABOVE RULE IS BEING FILED AS AN EMERGENCY RULE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE AFTER APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THE 42ND DAY AFTER FILING, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST. THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES CONSTITUTING THE EMERGENCY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The declaration of the state of emergency regarding the COVID-19 global pandemic demands uniform social distancing guidelines to preserve public health.

DOES THIS EMERGENCY RULE REPEAL A CURRENT RULE? No

HAS THE SAME OR SIMILAR EMERGENCY RULE PREVIOUSLY BEEN FILED AND OR EXPIRED? No

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

n/a

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

n/a

C. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

The statewide consistency among retailers will assist in keeping these critical retail operations open and functioning in a safe manner for both the employees and the general public.

D. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2020 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2021 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost			0
Personal Services			0
Current Expenses			0
Repairs and Alterations			0
Assets			0
Other			0
2. Estimated Total Revenues			0

E. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

n/a

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

April L Robertson--By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

TITLE 64
LEGISLATIVE RULE
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

SERIES 114
PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS FOR BUSINESSES REMAINING OPEN
DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

§64-114-1. General.

1.1. Scope -- This emergency rule establishes uniform public health standards for businesses operating in the state during the declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the provisions of this emergency rule supersede any conflicting provisions of local board of health or other local governing body order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2. Authority -- W. Va. Code §§ 16-3-1, 16-1-4, and 29A-3-15.

1.3. Filing Date --

1.4. Effective Date --

1.5. Sunset Provision -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect upon the expiration of five years from its effective date.

1.6. Applicability -- This rule applies to all businesses permitted to remain operational or open to the public by Executive Order of the Governor of the State of West Virginia.

1.7. Enforcement -- this rule may be enforced by the Commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health or by the Local Health Officer of the Local Board of Health for the jurisdiction in which the business operates.

§64-114-2. Definitions.

2.1. Business -- A business or operation conducted by private or public employer or entity, or both, including non-profit businesses or operations in West Virginia permitted to remain operational or open to the public by Executive Order of the Governor of the State of West Virginia during the state of emergency.

2.2. Commissioner -- The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

2.3. Customer floor space -- The amount of floor space open to the public by the business.

2.4. Local Health Officer -- The individual who fulfills the duties and responsibilities of the health officer for a local board of health, or his or her designee.

2.5. Public -- Persons not employees of the business.

§64-114-3. Essential Businesses and Operations.

3.1. Essential Businesses and Operations. As defined by Executive Order 9-20, or as amended by subsequent Executive Order, any business conducted by private or public employers or entities, or both, including non-profit businesses or operations in any county, shall direct their employees, contractors, and vendors to work from home, to the maximum extent possible, or to otherwise work remotely in order to limit the circumstances requiring their employees to leave home.

3.2. Public Health Standards for Businesses Remaining Open. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1., businesses that choose to remain open must take the following minimum additional actions:

3.2.a. Implement a written plan to limit staff, contractors, and vendors to essential personnel;

3.2.b. Implement social distancing practices in the workplace where possible, including remaining at a minimum six-foot distance from other persons;

3.2.c. Supplying multiple, adequate disinfecting and hygienic supplies and dispensers to staff and other persons as needed, such as disinfecting wipes or spray, hand sanitizer, and soap and water consistent with the number of persons allowed to be on the premises as set forth herein; and

3.2.d. Provide protective barriers for employees exposed to the general public.

3.3. Public Access Restrictions. All businesses that remain open to the public shall limit access to the general public as follows:

3.3.a. No more than two individual members of the public may enter a business per 1,000 square feet of customer floor space at any given time; businesses of less than 1,000 square feet of customer floor space shall not permit that space to be occupied by more than five persons, including employees, at any given time.

3.3.b. For businesses whose sales are comprised of at least 80 percent grocery food products or more, no more than three members of the public may enter a business per 1,000 square feet of customer floor space at any given time.

3.3.c. To ensure that the number of people per square foot requirements are not violated, each business shall track the number of people who enter and leave the business and control the capacity on a one-in, one-out basis after the maximum capacity required by this section has been reached.

3.3.d. All businesses shall take actions to establish appropriate social distancing measures for the public to the greatest extent possible, including but not limited to, marking areas a minimum of six feet apart at any area where persons are likely to stand or wait in line, creating one-way aisles, and any other restrictions which limit close contact with other people.

3.3.e. To the extent practicable, a business shall encourage its customers to place their order ahead to allow customers to pick up and pay without entering the business.

3.3.f. Any business that remains open to the public shall prominently display the directives required by this section in a conspicuous manner at each public point of entry to the business.

§64-114-4. Penalties.

4.1. Any person who is subject to the provisions of this rule who fails to comply with the requirements herein or otherwise fails to act in accordance with this rule may be subject to enforcement order issued by the Commissioner or local health officer, and is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$25, nor more than \$200, as provided by W. Va. Code §16-3-2.

§64-114-5. Administrative Due Process.

5.1. Any person adversely affected by the enforcement of this rule desiring a contested case hearing to determine any rights, duties, interests or privileges shall do so in a manner prescribed in the Bureau procedural rule, Rules of Procedure for Contested Case Hearings and Declaratory Rulings, 64CSR1.