
Information and Resources for FBOs and Other General Aviation Support Businesses Considered “Essential Services” Under Federal Guidance

As state and local municipalities enact restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19, general aviation businesses are asking whether they *may* remain open or are *obligated* to remain open for business.

Maintaining functioning critical infrastructure is imperative to public health and safety. Transportation and aviation are included in the sixteen critical infrastructure sectors designated by the federal government. The designation is based on recognizing that those assets, systems, and networks are so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.

([Presidential Policy Directive 21 \(PPD-21\)](#): Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience advances a national policy to strengthen and maintain secure, functioning, and resilient critical infrastructure.)

General aviation business services and workers that are recognized in the federal guidance as critical essential infrastructure include:

- Employees who repair and maintain vehicles, aircraft, rail equipment, marine vessels, and the equipment and infrastructure that enables operations that encompass movement of cargo and passengers.
- Air transportation employees, including air traffic controllers and maintenance personnel, ramp workers, aviation and aerospace safety, security, and operations personnel and accident investigations.
- Workers who support the maintenance and operation of cargo by air transportation, including flight crews, maintenance, airport operations, and other on- and off- airport facilities workers.

The designations above can be found at [“Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce,”](#) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), March 19, 2020.

Federal designation as an essential critical workforce and business is not a mandate, nor does it override state and local law. States have the discretion to set their own restrictions and definitions for essential businesses. Additionally, businesses deemed “essential” must still abide by the applicable state and local guidance regarding protective mitigation measures (hand washing, etc.).

As of Monday, March 23, 2020, the states listed on the next page enacted comprehensive stay-at-home orders closing non-essential businesses. However, most of these states have adopted the CISA designation of aviation and airports as critical infrastructure sectors and, therefore, aviation and airports businesses and their workers would be exempt. New Jersey is the sole state that has not explicitly adopted aviation and airports as an essential sector business. To assist our members, NATA developed a Tier 1 Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker Letter that may be personalized with your company’s information and carried by your employees to prove their designated status when accessing COVID-19 restricted areas. Email NATA at covid@nata.aero for a copy of the letter.

As the situation is rapidly changing, before making any changes, businesses should verify their plan of action with their local and state government representatives and airport management.

NATA would appreciate reports back from membership on any state or local restrictions which prohibit member businesses from servicing aircraft or providing airport support services. Please contact NATA at covid@nata.aero.

State Orders:

California:

Order of Governor Newsom, State of California, "[Executive Order](#) N-33-20," March 19, 2020.

Connecticut:

"Governor Lamont Signs [Executive Order](#) Asking Connecticut Businesses and Residents: 'Stay Safe, Stay Home,'" Executive order 7H, March 20, 2020.

Illinois:

"[Executive Order](#) by Governor JB Pritzger in Response to COVID-19," March 20, 2020.

Maryland:

"[Order](#) of the Governor of the State of Maryland Closing All Non-Essential Businesses and Other Establishments," Number 20-03-23-01," March 23, 2020.

Michigan:

Governor Gretchen Whitmer, "[Executive Order](#) No. 2020-21 Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life," effective March 24, 2020.

New Jersey:

New Jersey's Order closing non-essential businesses does not specifically exempt aviation and airports and does not adopt the CISA critical infrastructure sector designations. Governor Philip D. Murphy, "[Executive Order](#) No. 107," March 21, 2020.

New York:

"Governor Cuomo Issues [Guidance](#) on Essential Services Under The 'New York State on PAUSE' Executive Order," March 20, 2020 (www.ny.gov).

Ohio:

"[Director's Order](#) that All Persons Stay at Home Unless Engaged in Essential Work or Activity," March 22, 2020.

Pennsylvania:

"[Order](#) Of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Regarding the Closure of All Businesses That Are Not Life Sustaining," March 19, 2020.

As the situation is fluid, visit <https://www.nga.org/coronavirus/> for updates on additional states and territories issuing emergency/public health emergency declarations. NATA thanks our committee members, NATACS, and attorneys Paul Lange and Shelley Ewalt for their work in developing these resources.