

ORDER OF THE MAYOR

Guidelines for Retail and Grocery Stores

WHEREAS, by Proclamation dated March 13, 2020, Governor Ivey found that the appearance of COVID-19 in the State of Alabama creates the potential of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people and declared a state public health emergency under *ALA CODE* Section 31-9-1, *et seq*; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution and Proclamation of Emergency dated March 17, 2020, the City Council of the City of Mobile, pursuant to its authority to provide for the health and safety of persons and property under *ALA CODE* Section 31-9-10(b)(1) and to preserve the health of the inhabitants of the municipality under *ALA CODE* Section 11-45-1, declared that it is in the best interest of the City to adopt policies and procedures consistent with directives from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to prepare and protect the City from dangers arising from the unprecedented pandemic arising from the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Order of the State Health Officer Suspending Certain Public Gatherings due to Risk of Infection by COVID-19, issued March 19, 2020, and amended March 27, 2020, all gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons are prohibited, and, employers are directed to take all reasonable steps to meet these standards for employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Resolution and Proclamation, the Council authorized the Mayor to issue orders as appropriate to protect life and property;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Retail and grocery stores in the City of Mobile are directed to institute the following guidelines as of April 2, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

Social distancing:

1. Allow no more than 40% of stated fire capacity in the store at a time. To calculate the maximum number of occupants permitted, please either (a) multiply the maximum occupancy amount times 0.4 or (b) divide the total square footage of the sales space by 75. 40% capacity limit does not apply to employees. Require staff to count the number of customers entering and exiting the store and to enforce this as the emergency maximum occupancy.
2. Clearly mark 6' spacing in lines and other high-traffic areas and consider ways to encourage spacing if there are lines outside. Consider posting signage or using ropes to direct customers and to limit bottlenecks/encourage flow in high-density areas of stores.
3. Designate employees to monitor social distancing and assist customers.
4. Maximize space between customers and employees at checkout.

Cleaning and sanitation:

5. Designate employee(s) to ensure the cleaning guidelines set by the CDC are followed.
6. Discontinue self-serve foods and product sampling.

Notice:

7. Post a conspicuous notice of the store's emergency maximum occupancy at all entrances.

Limit time in store, especially for vulnerable populations:

8. Exclusive hours for those in high-risk populations, including seniors, where stores will limit their capacity to 40% of fire capacity at any time.
9. Larger grocery stores and retailers (those with greater than 25,000 SF), are encouraged to offer pickup and/or delivery options.

This Order shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by Mayoral Order.

DONE this ____ day of _____, 2020.

William S. Stimpson
Mayor
City of Mobile