



**STATE OF GEORGIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES**

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, as of this date, laboratory testing has confirmed more than 500 cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia, a number that continues to rise; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 presents a severe threat to public health in Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease that is transmitted by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, although the vast majority of Georgians are complying with public health recommendations and guidance for the isolation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19, I have received reliable reports that a small number of persons may be behaving in a way that contributes to the spread of this disease in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to require persons who:

- have received a positive lab-confirmed test for COVID-19, or
- are suspected to have COVID-19 based on symptoms and a known exposure to a person with COVID-19, or
- have been in close contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19

to isolate or quarantine themselves at home, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia's healthcare system.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4(4) and 31-12-4, Chapter 511-9-1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Public Health (“Department”), and Governor Kemp’s Executive Order 03.14.20.01,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** as follows:

Isolation

1. *Persons With Known COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or clinical laboratory of a positive laboratory-confirmed test for COVID-19, the person testing positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
2. *Persons With Suspected COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider or public health official of suspected COVID-19 infection based on symptoms and a known exposure to a person with COVID-19, the person with suspected COVID-19 infection shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
3. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Isolation Protocol attached to this Order, which may be updated from time to time based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
4. Each isolated person shall remain in isolation until such time as he or she no longer presents a risk of infection to the public, as determined by the Isolation Protocol then in effect. As of the date of this Administrative Order, the Isolation Protocol requires an isolated person to remain in isolation until:
  - the person’s fever has been gone for at least seventy-two (72) hours, without taking fever-reducing medication, and
  - the person’s other symptoms have resolved, and
  - at least seven (7) days have elapsed from the date symptoms began.
5. Isolated persons should monitor their symptoms and seek prompt medical attention if they experience difficulty breathing, as instructed in the [Isolation Protocol](#). An exception to the requirement for isolation applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person’s health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.
6. Each isolated person shall, to the extent practicable, provide notification of the isolated person’s COVID-19 status to those persons with whom the isolated person

has been in close contact (within six (6) feet for a prolonged period of time) since symptoms began. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever, and shortness of breath. At the request of state or local public health personnel, the isolated person shall provide a list of the locations visited by the isolated person during the time frame that he or she may have been able to transmit the disease.

### Quarantine

7. *Persons With COVID-19 Exposure Likely to Result in Infection.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or isolated person of exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact (within six (6) feet for a prolonged period of time) with a person who must be isolated as provided herein, the person so exposed shall immediately quarantine himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
8. Each quarantined person shall remain at home or in the approved quarantine location for a period of fourteen (14) days from the person's last known exposure to COVID-19. An exception to the requirement for quarantine applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person requires treatment in a healthcare facility.
9. During the period of quarantine, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person's temperature is above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or if the quarantined person experiences cough or shortness of breath, the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation set forth above.

Staff members of the Department remain available at 866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584) to provide assistance and counseling to persons subject to this Administrative Order concerning their illness or exposure and their compliance with this Order. During the period of isolation or quarantine, the ability of persons subject to this Order to communicate with others outside the isolation or quarantine site, including their ability to exchange confidential communications with legal and medical advisors of their own choosing, will be preserved and facilitated to the extent possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the isolation or quarantine.

Failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor offense pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-5-8. If the Department has reasonable grounds to believe that a person subject to quarantine or isolation refuses to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Department may provide information to law enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance and facilitate criminal prosecution.

Further, any person who refuses to isolate or quarantine himself or herself as required by this Order may be subject to further action by the Department, including a court order for involuntary detention in an appropriate facility other than the one specified above, or such other action as the Department may deem necessary to protect the public's health.

**SO ORDERED**, this 22nd day of March, 2020.



Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner  
State Health Officer

Attachment:

[Georgia Department of Public Health Isolation Protocol](#)