



FMA Summary of Governor Desantis' Executive Order 20-91

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FMA General Counsel

On April 1, 2020, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-91, the “Safer at Home” order. This order provides as follows:

- Senior citizens and individuals with a significant underlying medical condition are to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- All persons in Florida shall limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities.

The order defines “essential services” as those detailed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, v. 2, and those businesses and activities designated by Executive Order 20-89 and its attachments.

Notably, essential services include healthcare providers, including, but not limited to, hospitals, doctors’ and dentists’ offices, urgent care centers, clinics, rehabilitation facilities, physical therapists, mental health professionals, psychiatrists, therapists, and pharmacies.

While physician practices may remain open and available to provide services to patients under Executive Order 20-91, they are still prohibited under Executive Order 20-72 from providing any medically unnecessary, non-urgent or non-emergency procedure or surgery, which if delayed, does not place a patient’s immediate health, safety, or well-being at risk, or will, if delayed, not contribute to the worsening of a serious or life-threatening medical condition.

Individuals are still allowed and encouraged to work from home.

Essential activities encompass:

- Attending worship services
- participating in recreational activities
- Taking care of pets
- Caring for or assisting a loved one or friend

This order is effective 12:01 a.m. on April 3, 2020 and expires on April 30, 2020 unless extended.

[Click here for the text of Executive Order 20-92](#) and attachments.

If you have any questions about the impact of the order on you or your practice, please contact the FMA General Counsel’s office at jscott@flmedical.org.