



Ashe County

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How North Carolina's Stay-At-Home Order Impacts the People of Ashe County

Jefferson, NC –

On **Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM**, Governor Roy Cooper's executive order, ordering people to stay in their homes to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 goes into effect. This begs the question: **How does this order impact the people of Ashe County?**

Because we are already voluntarily doing most of the things the governor's order is requiring us to do, on a practical level, this order will have little additional impact on the people of Ashe County. The Governor's order simply makes mandatory the changes we've already made here in Ashe.

At this time, there is nothing in the governor's order stopping anybody from driving in Ashe County. However, in the interest of public health and conserving valuable law enforcement resources, we do ask Ashe residents to keep their driving to a minimum and leave the house only for essential travel. That being said, the roads are still open. As of this date, no local law enforcement officer has been given any order to stop vehicles simply for driving on the roadways or traveling into, or out of, Ashe County.

You **DO NOT NEED** any special notes to do any of the following:

- * You can still drive to and go inside the grocery stores; pharmacies; hardware stores; post offices; gas stations; office supply stores; beer, wine and ABC stores; gun stores or doctors' offices.
- * You can still go to restaurants for take-out food or to go through their drive-thru.
- * While local and State parks are currently closed for public health purposes, you can still go outside to get exercise, walk your pets, play with your children, etc. provided you maintain social distancing recommendations and continue to take protective measures.

Another question that we keep getting is: *“Do I need a letter from my employer to travel to and from work?”* The answer to this is **‘no’**.

Governor Cooper’s Stay at Home Order DOES NOT require businesses or employees that are deemed essential to have, or carry, any documentation from the State to continue operations or report to work. If your employer wants to write you a letter, they may, but it is currently not required under this order.

If there is any question if your business or employment is considered essential or not please check [HERE](#).

There are, of course, more details in Gov. Cooper’s order but the above list covers most of the questions Ashe County Emergency Management and the Ashe County Sheriff’s Office have been fielding this morning.

Governor Cooper’s Stay at Home Order can be read [HERE](#).

A more detailed list of Frequently Asked Questions about the Stay at Home Order can be found [HERE](#).

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