

Somerset Chamber of Commerce guide to:

COVID-19

Should my business stay open?

Written March 24, 2020

Amended March 25, 2020



Should my business stay open?

The Government announced on Monday March 23, further restrictions on movement of people, but businesses are asking if they should remain open.

The Prime Minister announced that people should restrict movement including:

“Travelling to and from work, but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.”

The aim of these restrictions is to reduce close social contact which increases the chances of infection spreading.

As such, businesses can stay open **unless** on the following list on non-essential businesses.

The following are asked to close from close of business on March 23, 2020 and the Government will review these measures in 3 weeks, relaxing restrictions where possible.

Outside of this specific guidance, it is up to the businesses owner to decide on the viability and sustainability of trading.

Further support and guidance can be found on the Government’s COVID-19 pages <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Business, premises or place	Exceptions
Food and drink	
Restaurants	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational.
Cafes, including workplace canteens	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless.
Public houses	
Bars and nightclubs, including bars in hotels or members’ clubs	Off Licences – amended 25/03/2020
Retail	
Hair, beauty and nail salons, including piercing and tattoo parlours	
Massage parlours	
All retail with notable exceptions	Supermarkets and other food shops, health shops, pharmacies including non-dispensing pharmacies, petrol stations, bicycle shops, home and hardware shops, laundrettes and dry cleaners, bicycle shops, garages, car rentals, pet shops, corner shops, newsagents, post offices, and banks.

Outdoor and indoor markets	Market stalls which offer essential retail, such as grocery and food.
Auction houses	
Car showrooms	
Hotels	
Hotels, hostels, BnBs, campsites and boarding houses for commercial use	Where people live in these as interim abodes whilst their primary residence is unavailable they may continue to do so. Key workers can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required.
Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses	Where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.
Non-residential institutions	
Libraries	
Community centres, youth centres and similar	Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services. We will do everything to support vulnerable people who are without a network of friends and families.
Places of worship for services	Funerals following the social distancing guidance; places of worship should remain open for solitary prayer. Live streaming of a service without audience would be permissible.
Cinemas, theatres and concert halls	Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed.
Assembly and leisure	
Museums and galleries	
Bingo halls, casinos and betting shops	
Spas	
Skating rinks	
Fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres	
Arcades, bowling alleys, soft play centres and similar	
Outdoor recreation	
Enclosed spaces in parks, including playgrounds, sports courts and pitches, and outdoor gyms or similar	