

To our stakeholders, partners, regulated communities, and others with an interest in the DAMF:

Everyone has questions about the implications of Emergency Order, #17,

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/documents/emergency-order-17-1.pdf>.

As noted in the list of essential businesses published by the Governor pursuant to Emergency Order #17, <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/emergency-order-17.pdf>, it is the responsibility of individual businesses to determine the “necessary staff to complete critical and essential functions”. Specifically, Emergency Order #17, itself, requires that each essential business “shall develop strategies, procedures and practices to allow for social distancing protocols consistent with guidance provided by the CDC and the Division of Public Health.” These include, but are not limited to:

1. Prohibiting all gatherings with more than 10 individuals
2. Keeping all personnel six feet apart
3. Encouraging employees to stay home when sick, and sending home those who report feeling ill or display symptoms”

These sites below provide some information about best management practices for businesses.

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html (CDC)
- www.nh.gov/covid19/residents/documents/covid-19-businesses.pdf (NH DHHS)

You should consider ways for employees to easily identify themselves (business card, company ID badge) outside of business operations for ease in transportation to and from work while adhering to local ordinances.

There are not specific state guidelines or recommendations regarding what tasks are essential and what are not in every business type, though state statute should guide some of the assessment regarding your specific business type. The Governor’s executive order, <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/index.htm> , is the authoritative source for operating during the emergency declaration. The order makes clear that no state agency has the authority to change statute, rule, regulation rather that power is reserved to the Governor or those he designates in writing – see #18. To date, very few statutory requirements have been suspended.

You can also seek guidance and protocol advice from your respective trade and industry support organizations.