BDCC Resources For Essential Business Determination

Following Vermont's Emergency Declaration by Governor Phil Scott March 13, 2020 BDCC’s Board of Trustees, SeVEDS’ Board of Directors, and BDCC’s entire team have pivoted to respond to the effects of COVID-19 on our region’s economy.

Because we do not yet know the scope and duration of the economic obstacles that lie ahead, we have begun an initial phase of communication, connection, and triage. As of March 15th, we have been actively engaged in sharing what we do know with our tenants, the region's businesses, and our community and economic development partners and municipalities. On Tuesday, March 24, 2020 Governor Scott issued a, [“Stay Home, Stay Safe”](https://governor.vermont.gov/press-release/governor-phil-scott-issues-%E2%80%9Cstay-home-stay-safe%E2%80%9D-order-directs-additional-closures) order and directed the closure of in-person operations for all non-essential businesses.

The order prohibits in-person business operations unless you are determined to be essential. However, it is important to understand if you are conducting in-person operations. If not, you may continue to operate - regardless of your essential or not essential status. In-person is defined as, “one person coming into contact with another person”- this contact is fellow coworkers, customers, or the general public. This type of contact includes any contact beyond the CDC recommended social distancing guidelines.

Many of you, in anticipation of this step have been reaching out to us to discuss the process to obtain Essential Business designation. Please be sure to read the full list of exempt businesses [here](https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%206%20TO%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf). On March 25th, The Secretary of Commerce issued additional guidance on their Stay Home, Stay Safe Business [FAQ](https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19-guidance/stay-home-stay-safe-business-faqs) page. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) is directing businesses to use the FAQ and a [NAICS Code Guidance List](https://accd.vermont.gov/content/naics-code-guidance-vermont-businesses) to self-determine if your sector and activities are essential. This form also indicates certain exemptions; please review to see if you fall under these exemptions.

If you are uncertain if your activities are exempt, you may request a review [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=O5O0IK26PEOcAnDtzHVZxpZpCEHOHkZNmCwXH5xH5clURUZRTFRVQ0NMVDZWRlNDVEc0RjdNSzNJVS4u). ACCD has also published a page with [sector specific business guidance](https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance) as well as [general business guidance.](https://vsp.vermont.gov/covid19/stayhome_enforcement)

Lastly, all business activities and workers identified in The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA)
[Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_508C_0.pdf) response dated March 19, 2020 are deemed critical to public health, safety, or economic and national security in Vermont. Businesses, organizations, or entities with workers identified in the CISA memorandum may remain operational during the COVID-19 response. However, these businesses must comply to the fullest extent possible to the Governor’s executive order concerning telework and remote work, and follow [CDC and VDH guidelines](https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus).