

[Skip to main content](#)

[Official State of Iowa Website](#)

[Agencies A-Z Programs & Services](#)



[Iowa Department of Public Safety](#)

Search

Menu

Main navigation

- [I need to...](#) I need to... sub-navigation
 - [Request Criminal Background Checks](#)
 - [Acquire a Weapon Permit](#)
 - [Find a Missing Person](#)
 - [Report School Safety Concerns](#)
 - [Access Crash Reports](#)
 - [Submit a Thank You/Compliment or Complaint](#)
 - [Submit an Iowa Open Records Request](#)
 - [View the Iowa Sex Offender Registry](#)
- [Divisions](#) Divisions sub-navigation
 - [Administrative Services Division](#)
 - [Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation](#)
 - [Iowa Division of Intelligence & Fusion Center](#)
 - [Iowa State Patrol](#)
 - [Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement](#)
 - [Iowa Division of Professional Development and Support Services](#)
 - [Iowa State Fire Marshal Division](#)
- [Bureaus](#) Bureaus sub-navigation
 - [Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau](#)
 - [Governor's School Safety Bureau](#)
 - [Professional Standards Bureau](#)
 - [Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy](#)
 - [Interoperability Communications Bureau](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Events](#) Events sub-navigation
 - [Iowa Peace Officer Memorial](#)
 - [Sullivan Brothers' & Governor's Lifesaving Awards](#)
- [Contact DPS](#) Contact DPS sub-navigation
 - [Contact DPS](#)
 - [Public Information Officers \(PIO\)](#)

[Agencies A-Z Online Services](#)

DPS and DPH Explain Legal Authorities Under Disaster Emergency Proclamation

- Tuesday, March 17, 2020
- [Press Release](#)

March 17, 2020

DES MOINES, Iowa - To support the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency pursuant to Iowa Code sections 29C.6, 135.140, and 135.144, the Iowa Department of Public Safety and Iowa Department of Public Health are providing the following guidance in the enforcement of this order.

The Proclamation contains a number of orders issued by the Governor in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, including orders related to the closure of:

- All restaurants and bars. Food or beverages may continue to be sold if delivered to customers off the premises or if such food or beverages are promptly taken from the premises, such as by carry-out or drive-through services.
- All fitness centers, health clubs, health spas, gyms, and aquatic centers.
- All theaters or other performance venues at which live performances or motion pictures are shown.
- All casinos or other facilities conducting pari-mutuel wagering or gaming operations.
- All facilities that conduct adult day services or other senior citizen centers.

It further prohibits social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people. This includes parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.

Under Iowa Code chapters 29C and 135, these orders are enforceable by peace officers and a violation of such orders is a crime: "A peace officer, when in full and distinctive uniform or displaying a badge or other insignia of authority, may arrest without warrant any person violating or attempting to violate in such officer's presence any order or rule, made pursuant to chapter 29C. This authority shall be limited to those rules which affect the public generally." Iowa Code section 29C.18(2). In addition, officers of homeland security and emergency management "shall execute and enforce the orders or rules made by the governor or under the governor's authority." Iowa Code section 29C.18(1).

In addition, peace officers have a duty to enforce lawful public health orders within their respective jurisdictions and a violation of an order included in a public health disaster proclamation is a misdemeanor.

These locations were ordered closed by Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 17, 2020. Governor Reynolds closed those sites and locations pursuant to Iowa Code section 135.144(3), in

conjunction with the Department of Public Health. Under Iowa Code section 135.35, “all peace officers of the state when called upon by the department shall enforce its rules and execute the lawful orders of the department within their respective jurisdictions.” Any person who knowingly violates these provisions of the disaster proclamation or a lawful order of an officer is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. Iowa Code section 135.38

“As this public health event rapidly unfolds, we will continue to partner with law enforcement agencies across the state to uphold and respond to Governor Reynolds’s™ health and safety directives,” says Department of Public Safety Commissioner Stephan Bayens. “Our law enforcement officers will continue to be a beacon in the communities they serve and provide enforcement of this declaration with compassion, confidence and dedication. Together, we will all see this through.”

[Click here for the full text of the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency.](#)

ABOUT THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) is the largest law enforcement agency in the state. It includes six divisions and several bureaus, all working together with local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to keep Iowa a safe place by following our core values: leadership, integrity, professionalism, courtesy, service and protection. Divisions within the Iowa DPS: Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa State Fire Marshal Division, Iowa Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center, and Administrative Services Division. The Department of Public Safety is led by the Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor.

Iowa Department of Public Safety

215 E 7th St
Des Moines IA 50319
<https://dps.iowa.gov>

Public Information Officers (PIO)

Sergeant Alex Dinkla, Iowa State Patrol PIO

Iowa State Patrol
Location
Oran Pape State Office Building

215 E 7th St
Des Moines, IA 50319

Email Address
[\[email protected\]](#)
Website(s)

[ISP](#)

Phone(s)

Mobile

[515.443.6644](#)

Social media links

- [Opens in a new window.](#)
- [Opens in a new window.](#)

Secondary Navigation Menu

- [Home \(parent section\)](#)
- [I need to...](#)
 - [Request Criminal Background Checks](#)
 - [Acquire a Weapon Permit](#)
 - [Find a Missing Person](#)
 - [Report School Safety Concerns](#)
 - [Access Crash Reports](#)
 - [Submit a Thank You/Compliment or Complaint](#)
 - [Submit an Iowa Open Records Request](#)
 - [View the Iowa Sex Offender Registry](#)
- [Divisions](#)
 - [Administrative Services Division](#)
 - [About ASD](#)
 - [Contact ASD](#)
 - [IOWA System](#)
 - [Peace Officer Retirement \(POR\)](#)
 - [About POR](#)
 - [POR Agendas & Meetings](#)
 - [Forms, Info, & Questions](#)
 - [POR Quarterly Performance Reports](#)
 - [Actuarial Valuation Reports & Presentations](#)
 - [Private Investigation, Private Security, Bail Enforcement](#)
 - [Uniform Crime Reporting](#)
 - [Weapon Permits](#)
 - [Weapon Permit Check](#)
 - [Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation](#)
 - [About DCI](#)
 - [Contact DCI](#)
 - [Find a Missing Person](#)

- [Check the Sex Offender Registry](#)
- [Request Criminal Background Checks](#)
- [Unidentified Bodies](#)
- [DCI Field Operations Bureau](#)
- [DCI Support Operations Bureau](#)
- [Special Enforcement Operations Bureau](#)
- [DCI Cyber Crime Bureau](#)
- [Iowa DCI Criminalistics Laboratory](#)
 - [About the DCI Crime Lab](#)
 - [Contact the Crime Lab](#)
 - [Crime Lab FAQs](#)
 - [Evidence Room](#)
 - [Breath Alcohol](#)
 - [Crime Scene Section](#)
 - [DNA Casework Section](#)
 - [DNA Profiling Convicted Offender Section](#)
 - [Drug Identification Section](#)
 - [Firearms and Toolmarks Section](#)
 - [Fire/Explosives Section](#)
 - [Impression Evidence Section](#)
 - [Photography Section](#)
 - [Toxicology Section](#)
 - [Toxicology Instrumentation](#)
 - [Trace Evidence Section](#)
- [Special Enforcement Operations](#)
- [Support Operations](#)
- [Iowa Division of Intelligence & Fusion Center](#)
 - [About DOI](#)
 - [Contact DOI](#)
 - [Iowa Office to Combat Human Trafficking](#)
 - [Stop HT Iowa](#)
 - [DOI Jobs & The Intelligence Production Cycle](#)
 - [Who DOI Supports](#)
- [Iowa State Patrol](#)
 - [About ISP](#)
 - [Contact ISP](#)
 - [View Iowa Road Conditions](#)
 - [Access Crash Reports](#)
 - [Capitol Complex Parking & Building Access](#)
 - [District Offices](#)
 - [Winter Driving Tips & Crash Statistics](#)
 - [Traffic Safety Initiatives](#)
 - [Join Iowa DPS](#)
 - [Specialty Units](#)
 - [ISP History](#)
- [Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement](#)

- [About DNE](#)
 - [Contact DNE](#)
 - [Clandestine Labs](#)
 - [Drug Information](#)
 - [Drug Identification Table](#)
 - [Online Tip Form](#)
 - [Prescription Drug Take Back Sites](#)
 - [DNE Training & Additional Resources](#)
- [Iowa Division of Professional Development and Support Services](#)
 - [About PDSS](#)
 - [Contact PDSS](#)
 - [Join Iowa DPS](#)
 - [Wellness & Support Services Bureau](#)
 - [Iowa DPS Academy](#)
 - [CALEA Accreditation](#)
- [Iowa State Fire Marshal Division](#)
 - [About the State Fire Marshal Division](#)
 - [Annual Statewide Fire School](#)
 - [Course Catalog](#)
 - [Registration Policies](#)
 - [Schedule & Event Information](#)
 - [Contact SFM](#)
 - [Arson & Explosives Bureau](#)
 - [Fire Service Training Bureau](#)
 - [State Fire Marshal General Information](#)
- [Bureaus](#)
 - [Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau](#)
 - [About GTSB](#)
 - [Contact GTSB](#)
 - [GTSB Press Releases](#)
 - [Traffic Safety Grants](#)
 - [Drug Recognition Expert Program](#)
 - [Impaired Driving Enforcement](#)
 - [Partner Agencies & Resources](#)
 - [Child Passenger Safety](#)
 - [Be a Traffic Safety Advocate](#)
 - [Traffic Safety Campaigns](#)
 - [GTSB Publications, Surveys, & Reports](#)
 - [Governor's School Safety Bureau](#)
 - [Safe+Sound Iowa](#)
 - [Professional Standards Bureau](#)
 - [Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy](#)
 - [About ODCP](#)
 - [Contact ODCP](#)
 - [Drug Information](#)
 - [Drug Take Backs](#)

- [Get Help](#)
- [Drug Control Policy Grants](#)
- [ODCP Programs](#)
 - [Drug Take Back Program](#)
 - [Drug Endangered Children Program](#)
 - [Drug-Free Workplace Program](#)
- [ODCP Press Releases](#)
- [Drug Control Policy & Publications](#)
 - [Drug Control Legislative Updates](#)
- [Interoperability Communications Bureau](#)
 - [About ICB](#)
 - [Contact ICB](#)
 - [What is ISICS?](#)
 - [ISICS Network Operations Center](#)
 - [ICB Careers](#)
 - [ISICS](#)
 - [ISICS Board](#)
 - [About the ISICS Board](#)
 - [ISICS Public Comment](#)
 - [ISICS Network Operations Center](#)
 - [ISICS](#)
 - [ISICS Education & Training](#)
 - [ISICS Resources](#)
 - [ISICS Calendar](#)
 - [Join ISICS](#)
 - [iMED](#)
 - [FirstNet Authority](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Events](#)
 - [Iowa Peace Officer Memorial](#)
 - [Sullivan Brothers' & Governor's Lifesaving Awards](#)
- [Contact DPS](#)
 - [Contact DPS](#)
 - [Public Information Officers \(PIO\)](#)

Iowa Department of Public Safety

Footer Social Media Menu

- [Opens in a new window.](#)
- [Opens in a new window.](#)

- [Opens in a new window.](#)
- [Opens in a new window.](#)
- [Opens in a new window.](#)

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How can we help?

[Share feedback with us](#)

Footer Menu

Footer

- [Contact](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Divisions](#)
- [Bureaus](#)
- [Accessibility Assistance](#)
- [Archived Documents](#)



Contact Menu

- [Send Feedback](#)

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