

Per the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response, on March 18th, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order to reduce in-person workforce by 50% (E.O. No. 202.6, see link below). On March 19th, the Governor ordered further in-person workforce reduction by 75%.

Businesses within essential service industries are exempt from these reductions, including: shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks and related financial institutions, and other industries critical to the supply chain.

Detailed guidance for businesses is now available online at: <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>

Businesses unsure if they are included within in exempt categories but still believe they are providing essential services or functions can request a waiver from these reductions by completing this form:

https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/Request%20for%20Designation%20Form_0.pdf

REMINDER: To help keep up with the quickly changing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, below are some important resources related to the economic impacts for businesses and workers...

- Governor Cuomo late yesterday issued an executive order that directs non-essential businesses to implement work-from-home policies effective Friday, March 20. Businesses that rely on in-office personnel must decrease their in-office workforce by 50 percent:
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2026-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- ESD has set up a [web portal](#) and [FAQ](#) page for individuals and businesses with business-related COVID-19 issues and questions on this website with all COVID-19 info:
<https://esd.ny.gov/esd-covid-19-related-resources>
- **NEW:** SBA has approved a statewide disaster declaration for New York. Eligible small businesses may now apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) online at:
<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
- Many businesses and organizations have expressed a desire to support New York State as it responds to the virus outbreak. Individuals or groups looking to volunteer or contribute to the State's effort should contact the Governor's Office at covid19assistance@exec.ny.gov.
- DOL has been working hard to keep up with the new demand for Unemployment Insurance and has institute new rules that include extended ours and restrictions about when to file based on your last name:
<https://labor.ny.gov/pressreleases/2020/march-17-2020-1.shtm>
- DOL is also reminding businesses of its Shared Work Program that can provide an alternative to laying off employees during business downturns by allowing workers to work a reduced work schedule and collect partial unemployment insurance benefits for up to 26 weeks. Instead of cutting staff, you able to reduce the number of hours of all employees or just a certain group:
<https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/employerinfo/shared-work-program.shtm>
- Below is the main NYS page for all COVID-19 information: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>