

# COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What You Need to Know

### HOW DO I GET "EXEMPT" OR QUALIFY MY BUSINESS AS "ESSENTIAL"?

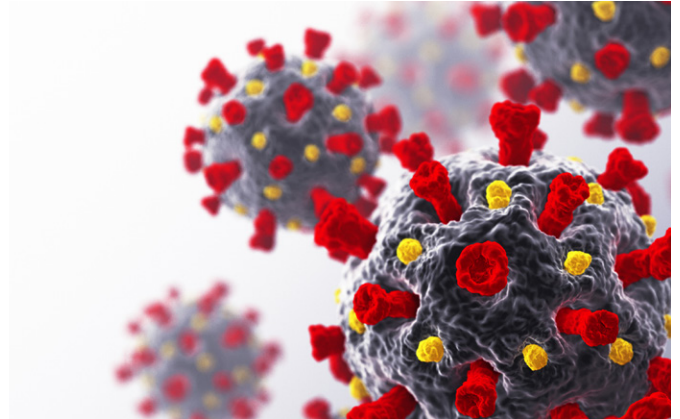
We encourage you to send emails or letters to your elected and non-elected officials. It is critical to leverage any connections you may have at the local, state, and even federal level to advocate for the industry.

Please note, exclusions vary by state, but PHTA has noticed a few patterns throughout the country.

- Most Orders exclude construction work, as well as skilled trades, such as electrical and plumbing. (NOTE: In some states, pool contractors are licensed under "plumbing.")
- Most Orders contain exceptions for maintenance and sanitization of residences, as well as business facilities that are allowed to remain open
- Some states specifically exempt chemical manufacturing
- A number of states exempt distribution and warehousing
- Where retail closures have been ordered, exemptions have often been established for "hardware" and/or "home improvement," as well as for retail necessary to support other essential infrastructure or services, such as sanitization, or contractors.

PHTA firmly believes companies that supply pool sanitization and disinfection materials (through manufacturing, distribution or retail stores), the companies that manage the maintenance of swimming pools, hot tubs and other artificial bodies of water and

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the companies currently constructing inground pools and spas are essential to preventing the transmission of infectious diseases, helping maintain community health, and ensuring public safety.

### WHO SHOULD MEMBERS BE REACHING OUT TO?

- a. Governor's office. [Find your Governor here](#)<sup>1</sup> and [chiefs of staff here](#)<sup>2</sup>
- b. Lieutenant Governor's Office. [Find your Lt. Governor and staff here](#)<sup>3</sup>
- c. Leaders in the legislature:
  1. Speaker of the House
  2. Presidents of The Senate
  3. [The state legislator](#)<sup>4</sup> of where your company is located, or one you know personally
- d. State or Local Health Officials
- e. Mayor or other City/County Officials
- f. State/Regional Department of Economic Development

### WHAT SHOULD MEMBERS BE WRITING TO OUR STATE LEGISLATORS AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS?

[Download this letter to share with local and state officials](#)<sup>5</sup>.

[See PHTA's Letter to State and Local Officials](#)<sup>6</sup>

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## COVID-19 | FAQ

We've also created [talking points](#)<sup>7</sup> that you can use to inform your lawmakers about the value of our industry.

### **WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT THE STATE LEVEL? WHICH STATES HAVE ISSUED EXECUTIVE/STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS?**

Many states and local jurisdictions have or are in the process of issuing directives affecting employers and various business establishments. The information below is intended as a general guide to Executive Orders of certain states. The information is by no means complete or up to the moment, as it is impossible to keep abreast of edicts from 50 states and hundreds of counties or cities. ALL MEMBERS ARE ADVISED TO SEEK THEIR OWN LEGAL COUNSEL AND/OR SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FROM THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.

[Click Here to View State Executive Orders](#)<sup>8</sup>.  
[Click Here to View State Action Highlights](#)<sup>9</sup>.

### **WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE POOL INDUSTRY? Will there be Federal Relief?**

PHTA's Government Relations team is working with their federal lobbyist to stay up-to-speed with this ever-changing pandemic. Congress continues to debate on the COVID-19 relief package and has outlines this package, and other key items you need to know:

It is hard to assume at this point exactly what federal or state relief might look like as Congress is still working to finalize stage 3 of their likely \$2 trillion relief packet.

At present, it appears that a major piece of the economic stimulus will be in the form of [Small Business Administration \(SBA\) loans](#)<sup>10</sup>.

PHTA staff has been monitoring the economic stimulus proposals that have been presented over the past week. [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(H.R. 6201\)](#)<sup>11</sup> was signed by President Trump on March 18. This critical legislation includes provisions for paid leave, changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and [temporary tax credits for small businesses \(500 employees or less\)](#)<sup>12</sup>.

Implementation of these economic programs will take weeks, if not months, to work through. Because of this, it is best to ensure you have detailed company records such

as workforce, sick leave, contracting issues, supply chain disruptions and more. These data points may be required to qualify for some form of State or Federal assistance.

### **WHAT SHOULD MEMBERS BE TELLING THEIR CUSTOMERS:**

Download customizable flyers that you can share with your customers. Make sure to add your company logo and contact information!

- [Service Providers/Builders](#)<sup>13</sup>
- [Retailers/Service Provider/Builders](#)<sup>14</sup>

It is important to share with customers that the maintenance of properly sanitized swimming pools and other artificial bodies of water is necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases and help maintain community health. Without proper pool maintenance (which includes circulation and treatment of water) various pathogens can grow, such as Pseudomonas, Cryptosporidium, E. Coli, Shigella, etc. It can also create a breeding ground for mosquitoes, other pests and the diseases they may carry. This presents a risk not only to bathers but to the entire community at large.

Links:

1. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/2020 US Governors.pdf>
2. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/US Governor Chiefs of Staff.pdf>
3. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/State Lt. Governors.pdf>
4. [https://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)
5. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/Member Letter Template 0.docx>
6. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/PHTA Letter to Officials.pdf>
7. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/documents/Pool%20Are%20Essential Legislators.pdf>
8. <https://web.csg.org/covid19/executive-orders/>
9. <https://nspf.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9MjkxMDkzOCZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9Mzk3MTE2NDgz>
10. <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>
11. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/documents/Families First Summary FINAL.pdf>
12. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/documents/202003171250432454.pdf>
13. <https://www.phta.org/sites/default/files/documents/Service%20Providers 0.pdf>
14. <https://www.phtacoronupdate.com/sites/default/files/Pool%20and%20Hot%20Tubs%20Are%20Essential.pdf>