

**Executive Order
City of Opelika
Office of the Mayor**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. _____
BY THE MAYOR**

WHEREAS, by Proclamation dated March 13, 2020, Governor Ivey found that the appearance of COVID-19 in the State of Alabama creates the potential of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people and declared a state public health emergency under ALA CODE §31-9-1, et seq; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 008-20, adopted on March 17, 2020, the City Council of the City of Opelika declared a public health emergency related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) exists within the territorial limits of the City of Opelika; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 008-20, the City Council authorized the Mayor to issue orders as appropriate to protect life and property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Order of the State Health Officer Suspending Certain Public Gatherings due to Risk of Infection by COVID-19, issued March 19, 2020, and amended March 27, 2020, all gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons are prohibited, and employers are directed to take all reasonable steps to meet these standards for employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Order is to prevent crowding at retail and grocery stores in order to protect the health of the citizens of Opelika and to contain the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Fuller, as Mayor of the City of Opelika, by the authority vested in me by the applicable provisions and laws of the State of Alabama and Ordinance No. 008-20 of the Opelika City Council adopted on March 17, 2020, and as otherwise provided by law, hereby authorize, order and direct as follows:

Section 1. Retail and grocery stores in the City of Opelika are directed to institute the following guidelines as of April 8, 2020, at 7:00 a.m.:

Social distancing:

1. Allow no more than 20% of stated fire capacity in the store at a time. To calculate the maximum number of occupants permitted, please multiply the maximum occupancy amount times 0.2. (Note this reduced capacity is approximately 150 square feet per person.) 20% capacity limit does not apply to employees. Require staff to count the number of customers entering and exiting the store and to enforce this as the emergency maximum occupancy.
2. Clearly mark 6 foot spacing in lines and other high-traffic areas and consider ways to encourage spacing if there are lines outside. Consider posting signage or using ropes to direct customers and to limit bottlenecks/encourage flow in high-density areas of stores.
3. Designate employees to monitor social distancing and assist customers.
4. Maximize space between customers and employees at checkout.

Cleaning and sanitation:

5. Designate employee(s) to ensure the cleaning guidelines set by the CDC are followed.
6. Discontinue self-serve foods and product sampling.

Notice:

7. Post a conspicuous notice of the store's emergency maximum occupancy at all entrances.

Limit time in store, especially for vulnerable populations:

8. Consider exclusive hours for those in high-risk populations, including seniors, where stores will limit their capacity to 10% of fire capacity at any time.
9. Larger grocery stores and retailers (those with greater than 25,000 SF), are encouraged to offer pickup and/or delivery options.

Section 2. This Order shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by Mayoral Order.

Section 3. In the event the State Health Officer implements a state-wide order that is more restrictive or stringent, then the order of the State Health Officer shall take precedence.

Section 4. To the extent that this Order is in conflict with other executive orders, this Order shall supersede the others until this Order is amended or repealed.

SO ORDERED from City Hall on this the 6th day of April, 2020.



GARY FULLER, MAYOR
CITY OF OPELIKA, ALABAMA