



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 69-2
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**

Guidance on Critical Retail Businesses

In accordance with Governor Raimondo's [Executive Order 20-14](#) issued on March 28th, all non-critical retail businesses were to close as of March 30, 2020 and the Department of Business Regulation is providing the following list of critical and non-critical retail businesses. For questions on these guidelines, please submit your questions online to the DBR online at <https://dbr.ri.gov/critical/>. You may also call the Department of Business Regulation COVID-19 hotline at 401-889-5550.

**Please note: RETAIL business SELLS things. SERVICE businesses DO things.
These restrictions are on RETAIL business in-person operations.**

The State of Rhode Island has not deemed ANY business essential or non-essential at this time. There are no documents or certifications to travel for businesses across state lines.

Critical retail businesses include:

- Food and beverage stores (e.g. supermarkets; liquor, specialty food, bodega and convenience stores; farmers' markets; food banks and pantries)
- Pharmacies and medical supply stores, compassion centers
- Pet supply stores
- Printing shops, mail and delivery stores and operations, office supply
- Gas stations
- Laundromats, Drycleaners
- Electronics and telecommunications stores
- Industrial, construction, agricultural/seafood equipment and supply stores, hardware stores, general power equipment
- Funeral homes
- Auto repair and supply
- Banks and credit unions
- Firearms stores
- Healthcare and public safety professional uniform stores
- And other stores and businesses identified as critical by the Department of Business Regulation.

Non-critical retail businesses include: (if you can offer curbside pick-up or delivery you are encouraged to do so)

- Arts & crafts stores
- Florists
- Furniture stores (by appointment only)
- Car and other motor vehicle dealerships (except for auto repair and by appointment only)
- Music stores
- Billiard stores
- Sporting goods stores
- Home furnishings stores
- Book stores
- Departments stores
- Gift stores
- Beauty supply stores
- Second-hand/consignment stores
- Shoe stores
- Clothing stores
- Jewelry stores
- Bike shops (service and repair is permitted)
- Pool Stores (service and repair is permitted)
- Landscape & Garden centers (Commercial clients: By appointment only, pick up and delivery permitted. Regular customers: pick up and delivery only)

Additional guidance:

- Restaurants and bars may continue to operate only for pickup, drive-through, and delivery as per the Governor's Executive Order 20-04.
- All critical retail employers are required to implement social distancing and to work from home to the extent possible.
- Financial services offered by pawn shops and payday lenders would be allowed to continue. In-person retail at pawn shops would be considered non-critical and closed.
- For stores that are mixed retail and service, general retail with customers coming in and out of your store is not permitted.
- For non-critical retail stores, although in-person retail sales are not allowed, retailers may continue to receive and ship orders made by phone or online.

We have received an enormous amount of inquiries for these SERVICE based businesses. At this time, the following businesses are permitted to be open:

- Dog Groomers, dog day care, dog walkers
- All construction related activities
- Self storage
- Marinas
- Car washes