Businesses permitted to operate

Under the City of Berkeley’s current shelter in place order, businesses are permitted to operate if they fall into one of three categories defined in the order: essential businesses, outdoor businesses, or additional businesses permitted to operate.

Essential businesses

- Healthcare operations
- Grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and other food sales businesses
- Food cultivation: farming, livestock, fishing
- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services for needy individuals
- Construction
- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services
- Gas stations, auto supply, and auto repair
- Bicycle repair and supply
- Banks and financial institutions
- Service providers that enable real estate transactions (including rentals, leases, and home sales)
- Hardware stores
- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and similar service providers
- Mailing and shipping services
- Educational institutions – for distance learning only
- Laundromats and dry cleaners
- Restaurants and other food service – only for delivery or carry out
- Funeral homes, mortuaries, cemeteries, and crematoriums
- Businesses that supply other essential businesses with support or supplies needed to operate
- Grocery and food delivery
- Airlines, taxis, rental car companies, rideshare, and other shared mobility services – only for transport for essential purposes
- Home based care for seniors, adults, children, and pets
- Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children
- Services to assist individuals in finding employment with essential businesses
- Moving services
- Professional services (legal, notary, or accounting) necessary to assist in compliance with legally required activities
- Childcare and summer camps providing care for workers at businesses permitted to operate under the order
Outdoor businesses

“Outdoor businesses” are defined as those businesses that normally operated primarily outdoors on or prior to March 16, 2020 and where there is the ability to fully maintain social distancing of at least six feet between all persons. Outdoor businesses include:

- Wholesale and retail plant nurseries
- Agricultural operations
- Garden centers
- Landscaping and gardening services
- Environmental site remediation services

Outdoor businesses do not include restaurants, cafés, or bars.

Additional businesses permitted to operate

The following additional businesses may operate subject to state and local requirements. All additional businesses must comply with social distancing requirements, create and distribute a social distancing protocol, and create a written health and safety plan for employees.

- Retail stores: may operate for curbside pickup and/or delivery only
  - Stores must take measures to prevent customers from blocking pedestrian access or causing vehicle congestion while pickup up goods
  - Customers may not enter the store
  - Stores that do not have direct access to a sidewalk, street, or alley may arrange for curbside pickup of goods at another safe outdoor location
  - Stores must comply with California retail industry guidance

- Manufacturing as permitted under the state resilience roadmap
  - Must comply with California manufacturing industry guidance

- Logistics and warehousing as permitted under the state resilience roadmap
  - Must comply with California logistics and warehousing industry guidance

These businesses were selected to implement an initial measured expansion of commercial activity based on health-related considerations including the risks of COVID-19 transmission associated with types and modes of business operations, the ability to substantially mitigate transmission risk, and related factors.