

MSF CLIENT ALERT

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Coronavirus Guidance – Connecticut Executive Order & “Stay Home- Stay Safe” Initiative

Meister Seelig & Fein LLP is equipped to assist you as needed during this unprecedented time. We take pride in our strong client relationships and are prepared to assist you around the clock as you navigate this rapidly changing landscape.

On March 20, 2020, Connecticut’s Governor Lamont issued an executive order directing all non-essential and not-for-profit entities in Connecticut to prohibit all in-person functions if they are able to as of 8:00 PM on Monday March 23, 2020. All businesses are encouraged to employ telecommuting or work-from-home procedures that they can safely implement to the maximum extent possible.

The order excludes any business or entity providing essential services or functions, such as health care, food service, law enforcement, or similar critical services. Businesses that are deemed essential, and are permitted to continue in-person operations, will be defined in full by the Department of Economic Development not later than 8:00 PM on March 22, 2020. Those businesses will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The sixteen (16) critical infrastructure sectors as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, which can be found here <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>;
- Essential health care operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, elder care, and home health care workers;
- Companies and institutions involved in the research, development, manufacture, distributions, warehousing, and supplying of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology therapies, health care data, consumer health products, medical devices, diagnostics, equipment, services and any other healthcare related supplies or services;
- essential infrastructure, including utilities, wastewater and drinking water, telecommunications, airports and transportation infrastructure;
- manufacturing, including food processing, pharmaceuticals, and industries supporting the essential services required to meet national security commitments to the federal government and U.S. Military;
- the defense industrial base, including aerospace, mechanical and software engineers, manufacturing/production workers, aircraft and weapon system mechanics and maintainers;
- essential retail, including grocery stores and big-box stores or wholesale clubs, provided they also sell groceries;
- pharmacies, gas stations, and convenience stores;
- food and beverage retailers (including liquor/package stores and manufacturer permittees) and restaurants, provided they comply with previous and future executive orders issued during the existing declared public health and civil preparedness emergency;
- essential services including trash and recycling collection, hauling, and processing, mail and shipping services;
- news media;
- legal and accounting services;
- banks, insurance companies, check cashing services, and other financial institutions; providers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations; construction; vendors of essential services and goods necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences or other essential businesses, including pest control and landscaping services;
- vendors that provide essential services or products, including logistics and technology support, childcare and services needed to ensure the continuing operation of government agencies and the provision of goods, services or functions necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

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The governor is also calling all residents to follow the “Stay Safe, Stay Home” initiative. The initiative recommends that residents do the following:

- Cancel or postpone all non-essential public community gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations, or other social events);
- If you must leave your home, do not travel in groups - groups must be limited to workers providing essential services;
- Keep at least six (6) feet away from each other whenever possible;
- Limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact and avoid activities where they come in close contact with other people;
- Limit use of public transportation to when absolutely necessary and limit potential exposure by spacing out at least six feet from other riders;
- Sick individuals should not leave their home except to fill critical needs or to receive medical care, and only after a telehealth visit to determine if leaving the home is in the best interest of their health;
- Young people should also practice social distancing and avoid contact with vulnerable populations; and
- Use precautionary sanitizer practices such as using soap and water, hand sanitizer, or isopropyl alcohol wipes. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds works best.

The “Stay Home, Stay Safe” initiative also requires businesses that provide essential services to implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least six (6) feet.

MSF’s attorneys are continuing to monitor developments on requirements and guidelines related to business operations in Connecticut and will update this alert during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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<i>Additional COVID-19 Resources</i>		
MSF Coronavirus Guidance Hub	Coronavirus Guidance- Tax Deadline Extended	Coronavirus Guidance – Leasing Obligations
What Every Employer Needs To Know	Coronavirus Guidance – NY Essential Businesses List	Coronavirus Guidance - Real Estate
Coronavirus Guidance – Paid Sick Leave	Coronavirus Guidance - Contract Review	Coronavirus Guidance – Taxation & Estates
Federal Response to COVID-19: Paid Sick Leave and Family and Medical Leave Expansion	Coronavirus Guidance – Business Interruption Insurance	Coronavirus Guidance- Tax Deadline Extended
New COVID-19 Protections for New York Employees signed on March 18, 2020		

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