



pennsylvania

STATE POLICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2020

State Police to Assist in Enforcement of Closure of Non-Life-Sustaining Businesses, Encourages Compliance

Enforcement action begins at 8:00 a.m., Monday, March 23

Harrisburg, PA – Colonel Robert Evanchick, commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), issued the following statement today on the agency’s enforcement of Governor Tom Wolf’s [order](#) closing physical locations of non-life-sustaining businesses:

“The priority of the Pennsylvania State Police is protecting lives and maintaining order in the commonwealth. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, troopers and liquor control enforcement officers are prepared to ensure compliance with Governor Wolf’s order.

“Private businesses, organizations, and other noncompliant entities face possible criminal penalties under the Administrative Code of 1929, 71 P.S. § 1409 and/or the Pennsylvania Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, 35 P.S. § 521.20(a). Both violations are summary offenses punishable by fines and even jail time. Violators may also be subject to additional administrative penalties under certain circumstances.

“We believe most Pennsylvanians want to act responsibly and do their part to help slow the spread of this deadly virus. Troopers and liquor control officers will make every effort to achieve voluntary compliance by educating business owners and using discretion when appropriate. But our message is clear: COVID-19 is a serious health and public safety risk that requires an extraordinary response from law enforcement and the public. I urge everyone to stay home, stay calm, and stay safe.”

The governor has directed the following state agencies and local officials to enforce the closure orders to the full extent of the law:

- Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture
- Pennsylvania State Police
- Local officials, using their resources to enforce closure orders within their jurisdictions

The Wolf administration has provided all local law enforcement with enforcement [guidance](#) that mirrors PSP’s.

To report a noncompliant business, contact your local law enforcement agency’s non-emergency number or the nearest [PSP station](#). Please do not call 911 to file reports.

For more information on the Pennsylvania State Police, visit psp.pa.gov.