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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gov. Kemp Announces Some Businesses May Reopen by End of Week *Others may reopen early next week.*

PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA, April 21, 2020 – At a press conference held Monday, April 20, Gov. Brian Kemp announced that beginning this Friday, some businesses may be able to open their doors again, others may reopen next Monday. However, some businesses will have to remain closed for the foreseeable future.

The list of businesses allowed to reopen on Friday include gyms, fitness centers, bowling alleys, tattoo parlors, barbershops, cosmetologists, hair designers, nail salons, and massage therapists. The orders states that all businesses must “implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19.” An explanation of those measures is included in the State of Georgia Executive Order dated April 20, 2020 (see link below).

Additionally, the governor announced that dine-in restaurants and movie theaters will be permitted to open next Monday, April 27. However, these businesses must ensure its patrons maintain the six-foot social distancing requirement and implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of the coronavirus. These measures are outlined in the April 20, 2020 Executive Order.

Gov. Kemp said that churches will be allowed to hold in-person services so long as the social distancing requirement is met.

The governor also announced there are businesses that are not yet permitted to open at this time, they include bars, night clubs, amusement parks and live-performances venues. Public schools will remain closed for the rest of this school year.

Under the new Executive Order, all medical, dental, orthodontics, optometry practices, physical therapists, ambulatory surgical centers, may begin treating patients. Physicians performing elective surgeries, health care institutions, medical facilities, and any and all other health care-

related practices and services may begin treating patients. All must adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines along with the provisions of this Order (see link below for details).

Gov. Kemp said he may not extend the statewide shelter-in-place order again after it expires the end of April but urged senior citizens (age 65 and over) and people with chronic health issues to continue sheltering in place until the state's public health emergency expires on May 13.

Gov. Kemp announced that the state would work with local universities and the Georgia National Guard to produce diagnostic testing supplies which would increase the number of tests that would be available. Additionally, a mobile screening app is being developed by Augusta University that will allow doctors to diagnose a person's symptoms via live video.

The phased-in approach to reopening businesses is meant to ease financial hardships for workers and business owners said the governor during the press conference.

For questions about the State of Georgia Executive Order please contact:

- Office of the Governor, Constituent Services: 404-656-1776
- Georgia Department of Economic Development: 404-962-4000
- Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency: 404-635-7000

[Use this link to view the full Executive Order dated April 20, 2020.](#)

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