



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff  
Gary Simpson

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## **Subj: Frequently Asked Questions: law enforcement responses to “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” amendment, Washington Governor’s Proclamation 20-05.**

**Q1. What will police do to enforce the governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Proclamation?**

**A1.** Law enforcement’s primary role is to help educate our citizens about how to comply with the orders to remain at home. We seek voluntary compliance to the governor’s proclamation. Enforcement is an option when compliance is not obtained.

**Q2. Are we under some form of ‘martial law?’**

**A2.** No, this is not martial law. Law enforcement agencies are not being tasked to detain, arrest or cite anyone, or establish roadway checkpoints to inquire about persons being away from their residence.

**Q3. What if I am contacted by police because the officer believes that I’m not complying with the governor’s proclamation?**

**A3.** When law enforcement officers encounter those who obviously are not complying with the governor’s orders, the officers will remind them, as appropriate, of the recommendations and restrictions of the governor’s proclamation. However, enforcement is an option when compliance is not obtained.

**Q4. Under what circumstances can I leave my residence? Do I need some type of written authorization?**

**A4.** The Proclamation states that citizens may be out in public for several essential activity reasons. The main point here is to understand that if there is not an essential reason to be away from your residence, you are expected to stay at home to stay healthy. Essential reasons to be away from home are:

Personal safety reasons

To obtain provisions (food / fuel)

For health / medical purposes

Providing care for another

Transporting others

Outdoor exercise such as walking, hiking, running or biking. Appropriate social distancing practices must always be observed.

There is no permit or other authorization required to be away from your home for an essential reason.

**Q5. Will police arrest for violations of the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” proclamation?**

**A5.** Through education and cooperation, law enforcement agencies are seeking voluntary public compliance with the governor’s proclamation. Enforcement is an option when compliance is not obtained.

Law enforcement agencies have no desire to make arrests or take anyone to jail for violations. However, obvious intentional violations of the governor’s proclamation, outside of essential activity reasons, may be documented in a complaint report that is submitted to the Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office for review / charging.

**Q6. When would police make an arrest?**

**A6.** When requested by the Kitsap Public Health District, law enforcement agencies will investigate allegations of activity related to violation of the governor’s COVID-19 “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” proclamation. If officers develop probable cause that a criminal offense has been committed, the perpetrator(s) may be subject to arrest and booking into jail.

In lieu of arrest the investigating officer could forward the complaint report, with probable cause certificate, to the Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. The prosecutor’s office will review the report for criminal charging. If charged, the violator will be issued a summons to appear in court.

**Q7. \_\_\_\_\_ business is not essential and / or is violating the governor’s proclamation for operational requirements - please come shut them down.**

**A7.** The governor’s office determines what businesses are essential, you can find that listing here: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/whats-open-and-closed>.

If you believe that the business is violating the governor’s proclamation, please see the governor’s website to complete an online complaint form:  
<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/government-emergency-actions>

Click on the “report suspected violations” link.

**Q8. \_\_\_\_\_ business/group is violating the governor’s proclamation for social distancing operational requirements - please come shut them down.**

**A8.** If you believe that the business is violating the governor’s proclamation, please see the governor’s website to complete an online complaint form:  
<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/government-emergency-actions>

Click on the “report suspected violations” link.

**Q9. I do \_\_\_\_\_ type of work. Is this considered an essential business?**

**A9.** The governor’s office determines what businesses are essential, you can find that listing here: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/whats-open-and-closed>

To clarify essential status, or request inclusion on the list, [please fill out this form](#) or [call the governor’s office at 360-900-4111](#).

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