

# COVID-19 ALERT: Effect of Governor Kemp's Executive Order on Dealerships

March 24, 2020

Yesterday evening, Governor Kemp issued an executive order to reduce the continued spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Georgia. The order impacts all Georgians, and dealers are encouraged to read and share it with managers and employees to ensure the new guidelines are being followed.

[View Governor's executive order](#)

Of particular importance to dealers is the part that pertains to operating businesses in Georgia. It reads as follows:

"It is hereby Ordered...That no business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than ten (10) persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or to be seated within six (6) feet of any other person."

While other states have restricted "non-essential" businesses from operating, Kemp in this latest order did not distinguish between essential and non-essential businesses. Instead, this order allows businesses to remain open if less than 10 people are gathered at a single location; and if more than 10 people are gathered at a single location, then such business must keep people at least six feet apart from one another.

Thus, dealerships can continue current operations - including sales and service - if these conditions are met. That said, the state Department of Health is empowered by this order to close any business that does not comply with these restrictions, so dealers are advised to strictly adhere to the terms of this order. The order expires on April 6, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

In addition, the order instructs the state's Department of Public Health to "undertake public information activities to encourage organizations and businesses to protect the public by adhering to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for preventing the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. These information activities will encourage businesses to undertake more extensive sanitation efforts, to encourage curbside pick-up or home delivery of purchased items, to limit person interaction during transactions, and to limit

the number of persons within their place of businesses." For that reason, dealers are encouraged to review the Department's information bulletins when they are issued and to continue using the CDC's website for guidance. The CDC's updated Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is available [here](#).

