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GOVERNOR'S ORDER – CLOSURE OF NON-LIFE-SUSTAINING BUSINESSES

As you are aware, on March 19, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf, along with Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of the Department of Health, ordered all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania to close their physical locations as of 8 p.m. , March 19, to slow the spread of COVID-19. Enforcement actions against businesses that do not close their physical locations began at 8:00 a.m. Monday, March 23.

Private businesses, organizations, and other noncompliant entities face possible criminal penalties under the Administrative Code of 1929, 71 P.S. S 1409 and/or the Pennsylvania Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, 35 P.S. 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.

Pursuant to this order, suspected violations will be investigated by the Allentown Police Department. We ask that you report such violations to 610-437-7751 (Lehigh County Comm Center) and an Officer will document the situation. Our Community Services Unit will then follow up with the business owners and determine if a violation has occurred. After an initial warning, citations can be given pursuant to the above listed legislation.

The list of businesses that can be open and closed as well as the Governor's Order can be found online at <https://www.governor.pa.gov/>. Additionally, If people have questions on what is or is not a life sustaining business, they can also email the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development ra-dcedcs@pa.gov.

The Allentown Police Department appreciates all of the efforts of residents and businesses to assist in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

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