

**COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATE**  
**March 25, 2020**

Catawba County has received several inquiries regarding how a potential Stay at Home Order would impact businesses in the county.

**Currently, there is not a Stay at Home Order for the State of North Carolina or Catawba County.** We continue to closely monitor the coronavirus situation in Catawba County and are working directly with state and public health officials for guidance regarding any future Stay at Home actions. We encourage businesses and residents to continue doing whatever they can to keep people safe by limiting interpersonal contact as much as they are able.

Until a Stay at Home Order is in place, we cannot provide definitive guidance regarding which businesses, services, or workforce personnel would be deemed essential. **Those determinations will be made by state and/or local officials based on the situation at that time.**

For reference on this topic, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) maintains an initial list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce to help state and local officials make determinations as they work to protect their communities. **It is imperative to note that this list is advisory in nature for federal, state and local officials. It is not, nor should it be considered to be, a federal, state or local directive.** We are providing a link to this information for your reference only: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>.

We are also unable to provide direction regarding any identification businesses may be required to provide employees or vendors confirming that they are essential workforce under a potential Stay at Home Order. We have not been seeing this requirement in recent Stay at Home orders issued in other counties in North Carolina, but **until an order is in place, we cannot provide definitive guidance on this issue.**

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