

Social Distancing Guidance for Essential Retail Businesses

Social distancing involves taking measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the opportunities for exposure. The general recommendation is to avoid crowds and close contact by keeping six feet between yourself and others. When social distancing is properly implemented, it can be an important strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Essential retail business that remain open during the MN Stay At Home order should continue to follow social distancing and hygiene best practices. To that end, retailers should:

- Consider reserving certain hours for senior citizens and other high-risk populations.
- Not permit staff who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (such as fever or a cough) to come to work.
- Train employees on ideal hygiene practices, including proper handwashing.
- Increase frequency of cleaning and sanitizing per [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection guidance](#) of all hard surfaces, including tables and counter tops that are being utilized by employees and patrons, as well as restrooms.
- Consider installing sanitizing stations for customers and staff throughout the store.
- Assist customers in keeping at least 6 feet of space between individuals or family groups while shopping and waiting in line.
 - Consider place tape (or other visual cues) on the floor to assist customers in determining a 6 foot distance)
- Eliminate foods put on display and sample foods and reduce self-service food stations.
- Consider posting signage to encourage customers to remain 6 feet apart and to promote proper hygiene.