



Internet Association

March 18, 2020

Open Letter to State and Local Executives Regarding Essential Services During Shelter-in-Place Orders

Dear State and Local Leaders:

We, the undersigned organizations representing technology companies of all sizes across the United States, write as state and local governments consider potential shelter-in-place orders in response to the threat presented by the coronavirus. We respectfully urge you to include the vital functions performed by information technology (IT), IT infrastructure, and delivery and transportation services when drafting the shelter-in-place orders' essential business exemptions.

Around the world, IT and IT infrastructure is supporting health care providers, educational institutions, first responders, the pharmaceutical industry, all levels of government, and countless others responding to the coronavirus. The ability to stay connected and communicate in real time augments ongoing response efforts. Material disruption to or closure of significant operations could severely impact the IT industry's ability to support these mission-critical endeavors. To help ensure the continuity, stability, and cybersecurity of these services, any shelter-in-place order's list of essential business exemptions should include IT and IT services and their essential services vendors, including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, web-based services, and critical manufacturing.

Additionally, the delivery and pick-up of groceries, food and drinks, medical supplies, household staples, and other important items are already allowing your constituents to remain at home while still keeping those channels of critical goods flowing to consumers. Similarly, transportation services help medical professionals and first responders attend to their life-saving shifts, bring vulnerable populations to necessary medical appointments, and allow those on the front lines battling the coronavirus the ability to get to where they need to go to perform essential activities. In order to maintain safety, any shelter-in-place orders should also include delivery services and transportation services as essential business exemptions. This should include their essential services vendors and those needed to expand these essential delivery services through construction of facilities.

Thank you for your leadership during these trying times. We stand ready to work with you to keep the public safe and healthy.

TechNet
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
CompTIA
Data Center Coalition
Software & Information Industry Association
Alliance for Digital Innovation
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Internet Association