

**COVID-19 Alert** -For the latest information on the novel coronavirus in Kentucky, please visit [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov)

## Gov. Beshear Takes Quick Action to Contain Spread of COVID-19

Crystal Staley or Sebastian Kitchen

502-564-2611 or <https://governor.ky.gov>

Office of the Governor  
700 Capitol Avenue Frankfort KY 40601

*Multiple new actions taken to protect Kentucky families  
Visit the Governor's [Facebook](#) page to watch today's news conference*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 16, 2020)**-This evening, Gov. Andy Beshear announced even more decisive steps he is taking to contain and limit the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Gov. Beshear reminded Kentuckians that throughout this time they must remain calm and be good teammates.

"We're going to be dealing with this for some time. I cannot tell you how long, but I need everybody to be a good citizen -to remember that this is Team Kentucky. This is us against the coronavirus," said Gov. Beshear. "At this point, it is all hands on deck. Every single one of us is important in this fight. I hope it gives you a sense of purpose and patriotic duty: to your country, to this commonwealth. What we do is we protect one another. Let's defeat this. Let's defeat it on our first try."

Gov. Beshear encouraged people, when they do good things, help others and do their part in battling the virus, to post about them on social media using the hashtags #TeamKentucky and #TogetherKy.

"Let's start spreading good news. We need it. At times like this, when we can share good things we are doing, it lifts us all up," he said.

Gov. Beshear's new actions, following the morning's news of the state's first confirmed death related to the virus, include:

### **Childcare centers to close by Friday**

The policy will be forthcoming, but will include an exception for health care workers, and there will be some on-site employer exceptions.

"I know it's going to be hard, but it's all necessary. I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't believe that we had to do it," Gov. Beshear said. "But we will make it."

### **Three-month extension on driver's licenses**

To help those who might have a driver's license expiring in the coming weeks, Gov. Beshear said his administration would be providing a three-month extension on driver's licenses.

### **Closing of in-person government services**

By 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. Gov. Beshear said he was going to close government offices around the state to in-person services.

"We are going to make sure people can get the services they need, but we have to model the type of behavior that we want to see from other people," he said.

### **Postponing the May Primary Election**

Gov. Beshear said he agreed with Secretary of State Michael Adams's recommendation to postpone the state's Primary Election, which would have been held in May, to Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

To view Gov. Beshear's executive order on elections. [click here.](#)

"Postponing the primary was not an easy decision. But the Republican secretary of state and the Democratic governor agree, and so do county clerks of both parties. And they are our front line election administrators," said Adams.

Marriage licenses will be issued only if an appointment is made. If you have a document that needs to be recorded or you need access to a Permanent Land Record or any other recording, please call (502) 222-9311 and ask for the Deed Room.

Passports will be done by appointment only and as long as the US Department of State allows for it.

Office hours may change during this time.

I wish each of you the best and your support has been wonderful. We are in uncharted territory, but know we are still working hard to assist you, it will just be in a different way. This is a fluid and temporary situation and we may reevaluate and find better ways to serve you.

Julie

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Ben". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.