

State by State Response to COVID-19

Around **March 16, 2020**, several states implemented **drastic COVID-19 shutdowns**, but the most aggressive early measures came from:

1. **California** – Governor **Gavin Newsom** issued the first **statewide stay-at-home order** on **March 19, 2020**, closing non-essential businesses and enforcing social distancing.
2. **New York** – Governor **Andrew Cuomo** announced severe restrictions, closing non-essential businesses and banning gatherings. **New York City** became an early epicenter of the outbreak.
3. **Illinois** – Governor **J.B. Pritzker** issued a **stay-at-home order on March 20, 2020**, shutting down non-essential businesses.
4. **Washington** – One of the earliest states hit by COVID-19, Governor **Jay Inslee** imposed shutdowns, closing schools and businesses in mid-March.
5. **New Jersey** – Governor **Phil Murphy** ordered a **statewide lockdown on March 21, 2020**, closing non-essential retail and enforcing strict social distancing.
6. **Massachusetts** – Governor **Charlie Baker** declared a **state of emergency** and **banned gatherings over 25 people** on **March 15, 2020**, followed by further restrictions.
7. **Pennsylvania** – Governor **Tom Wolf** ordered the shutdown of non-essential businesses on **March 16, 2020**, making it one of the first states to act.
8. **Ohio** – Governor **Mike DeWine** closed schools on **March 12, 2020**, and later issued a **stay-at-home order on March 22, 2020**.

Summary:

The **most drastic early shutdowns** happened in **California, New York, Illinois, Washington, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Ohio**. These states imposed stay-at-home orders, closed businesses, and restricted gatherings before many other states took action.

Research:

- <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/17/us/states-measures-coronavirus-spread/index.html>
 - **New York, New Jersey, Connecticut**
 - The three states ordered a ban on gatherings of more than 50 people and agreed to close casinos, gyms and movie theaters starting Monday night, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced in a conference call.
 - Bars and restaurants take-out only
 - In [New Jersey](#), residents are no longer able to travel between the hours of 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced.
 - New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio also signed an executive order Monday directing all restaurants, bars and cafes to close down and only provide take-out or delivery services. All entertainment venues and gyms are closed, he said.