

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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DIRECTIVE OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER CLARIFYING THE GOVERNOR'S MARCH 19 "STAY AT HOME ORDER" AS IT PERTAINS TO THE USE OF LODGING FACILITIES IN EL DORADO COUNTY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

MARCH 24, 2020

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California and local emergencies have been declared in El Dorado County along with the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe in response to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, in El Dorado County as well as throughout California and the nation, there is insufficient critical healthcare infrastructure and resources, including hospital beds, ventilators, and workers to adequately treat mass numbers of patients concurrently as might be needed if the virus were to spread unchecked; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to that potential lack of healthcare infrastructure, governments across the nation are taking actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 to "flatten the curve" of infection and reduce the numbers of individuals infected concurrently by minimizing situations where the virus can spread; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this effort, on March 19, 2020, the El Dorado Public Health Officer issued a Directive that all people within El Dorado County limit their travel to the maximum extent feasible, and only travel for the essential tasks set forth in that Directive; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this effort, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, which requires all persons residing in the State of California to remain in their homes or places of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations for critical infrastructure (the "Stay-at-Home Order"); and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Governor issued additional guidance identifying “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” to effectuate the Stay-at-Home Order (the “Guidance”). This Guidance, which is attached hereto as an Exhibit and incorporated by this reference, identifies various industry sectors that are deemed essential to maintain the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure, and which thus may continue to operate notwithstanding the Stay-at-Home Order; and

WHEREAS, the Guidance further lists specific jobs and functions within those critical infrastructure sectors that are deemed “necessary”. This includes hotels and lodging *activities related to isolating and or quarantining persons infected with or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, or housing workers performing jobs deemed essential to maintaining critical infrastructure*; and

WHEREAS, much of El Dorado County is located in remote, beautiful locations that ordinarily welcome thousands of recreational visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, despite the Health Officer’s Directive and the Governor’s Order, in the past weeks, many non-residents have continued to travel to El Dorado County for non-essential purposes such as recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Order for “all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed...” was intended to prohibit people from unnecessarily traveling from their usual places of residence for non-essential activities; and

WHEREAS, all travel, including travel to other communities to recreate, increases the potential to spread the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the further people travel, the more likely they are to have contact with people outside their ordinary circle, and the more likely they are to transmit, or be infected with, the virus; and

WHEREAS, while the Governor explicitly allowed people to go outside to exercise, the context made clear that exercise was to be done alone or within your household group, and that outdoor exercise was not a reason to congregate and recreate in groups in a manner inconsistent with other portions of the Order; and

WHEREAS, engaging in strenuous and/or remote outdoor activities such as off-roading, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and/or hiking carry higher risks for injury, which could take first responders away from essential functions, including their additional extraordinary functions related to COVID-19, to assist people injured while recreating; and

WHEREAS, the strain on first responders is only worsened when there are numerous people from outside the local area because in addition to the risk of injury, there is a risk that visitors could need assistance if they get lost in unfamiliar locations; and

WHEREAS, El Dorado County only has two hospitals in the County with emergency capabilities and those hospitals have limited beds and supplies; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County Health Officer wishes to provide clarity and guidance to prospective visitors to El Dorado County and to businesses in the lodging sector of El Dorado County and the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe regarding operations under the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, the El Dorado County Health Officer issues this Directive to clarify the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order as follows:

1. The Health Officer reiterates that neither El Dorado County residents nor nonresidents should be traveling from their usual places of residence for the duration of the Governor's Order except as expressly permitted as a means to accomplish essential functions. Staying in short term lodging, *defined as lodging for a period of less than 30 days*, to facilitate recreation, tourism or "sheltering in place" away from your ordinary residence is NOT an essential function, places undue strain on infrastructure and services, and is NOT permitted under the Governor's Order or the Health Officer's Directive.
2. Short-term lodging facilities, including hotels, motels, condominiums, campgrounds, or other units that are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment measures, including measures to protect homeless populations, may continue to operate for the limited purpose of providing such mitigation and containment measures (examples include the housing of displaced or otherwise homeless persons or the isolation or quarantine of persons directed to such status by the Health Officer). *Campgrounds include tent camping, cabin camping, and recreational-vehicle camping ordinarily used for occupancies of less than 30 days.*
3. Short-term lodging facilities, including hotels, motels, condominiums, campgrounds, or other units that are used to house workers performing functions that are essential to maintain the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure, as listed in the attached Guidance, or were, prior to March 20, 2020, serving as primary residences for El Dorado County residents, may continue to operate for the limited purpose of housing those critical infrastructure workers.
4. Short term lodging facilities (including hotels, motels, condominiums, campgrounds or other units) that ordinarily house residents of El Dorado County who were residing at that facility prior to March 20, 2020 may continue to house those people. To ensure this Directive does not displace residents who were in El Dorado County prior to the Order, nothing in this Directive should be interpreted to preclude the continued residence of short term renters in hotels, motels,

or rentals where they were residing on or before March 20, 2020, no matter how the owner and lodger set the rental term.

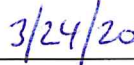
5. In the event of a question or uncertainty as to whether a particular short-term lodging use falls within the Governor's exemptions (e.g., whether it constitutes a mitigation or containment measure addressing the COVID-19 response or involves housing critical-infrastructure workers), a written determination from the California Department of Public Health, El Dorado County Health Officer, or the El Dorado County Emergency Operations Center that the use is authorized, or a directive from any of those entities to allow the use, shall be adequate to authorize such use. In the event it is not possible to obtain a determination in writing, such determination may be received orally and documented by the lodging provider (name of authorizing person, entity, and date/time the authorization is made).

This Directive takes effect immediately. It shall remain in place until the Governor's March 20, 2020 Order is rescinded, unless it is extended, terminated or modified by the Health Officer in writing.



Nancy Williams, MD, MPH

El Dorado County Public Health Officer



Date