



NEWS RELEASE

COVID-19 Response

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Health Officer formally prohibits short-term rentals; extends prohibition on gatherings to match State order



In an effort to protect the public from further spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, the County's Acting Health Officer has formally ordered short-term lodging facilities – including hotels, motels, and short-term residential-style rental units – to cease operations until the governor's "Stay at Home" order and the County's order prohibiting gatherings have been rescinded.

"Short-term rental activity continues to be an issue in our county's mountain and desert communities, which is understandably causing distress to local residents who are acting responsibly and are concerned about the spread of virus by tourists," said San Bernardino County Acting Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson. "We advised short-term rental owners on March 22 to comply with the State health order, which clearly prohibits their operation. It is clear that a specific local order will assist with additional efforts to bring about compliance and assist in enforcement."

Short-term lodging facilities may operate only if they are being used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment, such as serving the homeless population, or are being used to house workers supporting critical infrastructure.

The Acting Health Officer's order, which can be viewed [here](#), also formally extends indefinitely the March 17 County order prohibiting gatherings. It had originally been set to extend though at least April 6. The order also requires the closing of all movie theatres, gyms, health clubs, bars, adult entertainment establishments, and other businesses that serve alcohol but do not serve food. Food and beverage establishments must follow guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health.

The order does not apply to activities "essential to the functioning of our state" including work, public transportation, airport travel, grocery stores, charitable food distribution, certified farmers' markets, and shopping at stores or malls. The order also does not apply to congregate living situations, including dormitories and homeless encampments.

San Bernardino County has 254 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the deaths of six county residents have been associated with the disease. One nursing facility alone accounts for 71 of those cases and at least two of those deaths.

Various appropriate County departments and agencies have been working together since Jan. 25 to protect the community from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For information about the coronavirus crisis, visit the County's coronavirus website at sbcovid19.com. New information and resources are updated daily. The public can also contact the COVID-19 hotline from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at (909) 387-3911, or email the County at coronavirus@dph.sbcountry.gov.