

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 31, 2020, the Governor issued an Order extending the closing of certain workplaces and prohibiting gatherings of over 10 people through May 4, 2020. Following this action, the Governor also issued further guidance as it applies to hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfast, and short-term rentals including platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO.

The guidance defines the limited purposes and uses for which lodging is an essential service. Please review those definitions below and please ensure you are in compliance with the Governor's Order:

- Housing and accommodation for health care workers, first responders, and other workers constituting the COVID-19 Essential Workforce as specified in Exhibit A of COVID-19 Order No. 13 (as amended)
- To the extent not already included in the above, housing and accommodation for out-of-state workers engaged in transportation of materials, logistics, and construction associated with the delivery of health-related services, such as the development of COVID-19 alternative care sites
- Housing and accommodation for members of vulnerable populations, for instance when serving as emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families
- Housing and accommodation for Massachusetts residents (i) who are isolating or self-quarantining; and (ii) families or roommates of individuals who are isolating or self-quarantining; but (iii) in each case, for no longer than the period required to complete the necessary period of self-isolation or self-quarantining
- Housing and accommodation for individuals receiving long-term, specialized medical care from a physician located in the Commonwealth, and for accompanying family members
- Housing, accommodation, and shelter when required by extenuating circumstances such as fire or casualty to ensure the care and safety of Massachusetts residents and to accommodate other persons unable to return to their own homes due to flight cancellations, border closures, or other direct and material constraints on travel
- Workers engaged in providing or servicing or maintaining lodging for any of the purposes above shall be included within the COVID-19 Essential Workforce in order to support the continuing operation of lodging facilities for those purposes

The Governor's Order further elaborates that lodging offered, operated, or employed for purposes other than those listed above does not constitute a COVID-19 Essential Service. Accordingly, the provision and occupancy of lodging for leisure, vacation, and other purposes may not continue.

People occupying lodging as of March 31, 2020 may remain in their current lodgings through the end of their originally scheduled stay but may not extend their originally scheduled stay except for one of the purposes listed above.

In addition, people with future reservations to occupy lodgings may not exercise those agreements and may not occupy those lodgings, operators of lodgings may not provide lodging to people with future reservations unless for one of the purposes listed above.

Sincerely,

Jason Silva
Town Administrator