



**DECLARATION
RESTRICTING THE USE AND OCCUPANCY OF COMMERCIAL
LODGING AND RENTALS TO FURTHER COMBAT THE SPREAD OF
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

WHEREAS, a Civil Emergency was declared for the Town of Ocean City on March 16, 2020, and seven emergency Orders were enacted to adopt Governor Hogan’s executive orders and to adopt other local measures to protect those who live and work in Ocean City during this public health emergency;

WHEREAS, previous to the Town’s Orders, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global health pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, Maryland received a Major Disaster Declaration from the Federal Government related to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Governor Hogan’s Order dated March 30, 2020 recognizes that “to protect health, welfare, and safety, prevent the transmission of the novel coronavirus, control the spread of COVID-19, and save lives, it is necessary to control and direct movement of individuals in Maryland ... and that it is necessary to control and direct in Maryland the occupancy and use of buildings, and premises...” Order No. 20-03-30-01;

WHEREAS, Governor Hogan’s Order dated March 30, 2020 specifically directs, “All persons living in the State of Maryland ... effective as of 8:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020, to stay in their homes or places of residences...” with certain exceptions and non-essential travel is not one of said exceptions. Order No. 20-03-30-01;

WHEREAS, Governor Hogan said in his press conference on March 30, 2020 that people who have travelled to Maryland from out-of-state or a Marylander who has returned from out-of-state travel should self-quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) day;

WHEREAS, while the Town of Ocean City looks forward to the time when it can welcome visitors from all over the State and the country, during this unprecedented public health emergency, it is without the adequate resources to care for and provide essential goods for an influx of any non-resident visitor and now is not the time to visit the Town of Ocean City;

WHEREAS, reducing the influx of potential new carriers will potentially reduce the amount of community spread within the Town of Ocean City; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Mayor and City Council to make all reasonable efforts to secure persons from danger, and protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Ocean City and further restrictions are necessary for the protection of life.

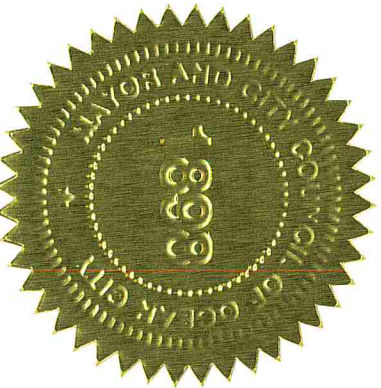
NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD W. MEEHAN, Mayor of the Town of Ocean City, and pursuant to the power and authority of Town Code Sec. 18-1 – 18-4, do hereby enact the following additional Order on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, to combat the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus.

Effective at the time and for the duration, hereinafter set forth, the following emergency ORDER is enacted and is subject to amendment and additional Orders at the discretion of local authorities based on re-evaluation of the status of the public health emergency:

- 1) Effective immediately, hotels, motels, vacation rentals (which shall include those properties rented directly by the owner or through any third party rental company or host platform) and other commercial lodging establishments shall not accept any occupants regardless of when the reservation was made or extend an existing reservation for persons other than Essential Lodgers. These restrictions shall remain in place through April 30, 2020.
- 2) An “Essential Lodger” shall be defined as:
 - a. healthcare professionals;
 - b. first responders;
 - c. National Guard Members;
 - d. law enforcement personnel.
 - e. State or Federal government employees;
 - f. airline crew members;
 - g. patients;
 - h. patients’ families;
 - i. journalists;
 - j. others responding to COVID-19;
 - k. persons unable to return to their home due to COVID-19 impacts on travel;
 - l. persons who must vacate their home due to exigent circumstances, such as fire or flood;
 - m. persons sheltering due to domestic violence;
 - n. hotel/motel employees, service providers and contractors of the hotel/motel;
 - o. persons sheltering due to homelessness;
 - p. full-time residents of the Town of Ocean City, who, for any reason, are temporarily unable to reside in their primary residential home; or
 - q. persons who own, operate or are employed by an “Essential Business” as defined by Governor Hogan’s order further defined as part of the critical infrastructure identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (currently described at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>) and actively engaged in their employment/role.
- 3) Voluntary compliance is our goal. Non-compliance could be subject to civil or criminal penalties and/or impact a business and rental license.

It is further Ordered that this Declaration be posted for public display at both City Hall and the Public Safety Building, and be distributed to the news media.

AS WITNESS to my hand and official seal:



Richard W. Meehan, Mayor

Diana L. Chavis, City Clerk