

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Board of Commissioners

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EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY Amended May 14, 2020

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (“State Law”), the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for Garrett County, Maryland (the “Chairman”), acting as the principal executive officer for Garrett County, Maryland (“Garrett County”), is authorized to declare a local state of emergency;

WHEREAS, after consultation with representatives of the Garrett County Health Department, the County Health Officer, as well as other local public health personnel and the Garrett County Director of Emergency Management and Emergency Services (the “Department”), the Chairman determined that, effective March 22, 2020, a public health catastrophe had occurred, or the threat thereof was imminent, and that a declaration of “Emergency,” as defined by State Law, was necessary to save lives, protect public health and safety, and to allow emergency agencies and first responders to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality related to public peace, health, safety, and protection of property;

WHEREAS, the declaration of a Local State of Emergency effective March 22, 2020, 5:00 P.M. local time, was further extended by Executive Order of the Chairman on April 21, 2020, and has remained in effect since that date; and

WHEREAS, Larry Hogan, Governor of the State of Maryland, has issued an Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01 (the “Executive Order”) authorizing certain subdivisions of the State, including Garrett County, Maryland, to adopt and implement, if appropriate, Maryland’s STRONG Roadmap to Recovery, Stage 1 – Low Risk Activities, as defined by the Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Paul C. Edwards, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for Garrett County, Maryland, acting in accordance with State Law, the Executive Order, and as the principal executive officer of Garrett County, do hereby declare and proclaim that the “Local State of Emergency” in Garrett County, Maryland, shall remain in effect but shall be modified to reflect the adoption and to implement the provisions of the Executive Order and Maryland’s STRONG Roadmap to Recovery, Stage 1 – Low Risk Activities, as follows:

1. The County, in consultation with the Garrett County Health Officer, have agreed that the Order of the Health Officer issued March 27, 2020, closing all TVRU and vacation rental properties be and is hereby rescinded and that , subject to the provisions of the Executive Order, and guidance of the Office of Legal Council, TVRU and vacation rental properties may reopen, effective May 14, 2020, provided, however, that their operations comply with the following mandatory guidelines:

A. Cleaning Vacation Rentals

(i) All TVRU and vacation rental properties shall adopt, implement and perform enhanced cleaning of the rental units as a condition of their TVRU or rental property license, as follows:

(a) Each unit shall be cleaned using EPA or CDC approved disinfectant in high touch, high traffic areas throughout the rental unit;

(b) Each owner shall be responsible for cleaning of the rental unit consistent and in compliance with the Vacation Rental Housekeeping Professional Standard of Housekeeping during the COVID-19 Pandemic and in a manner consistent with guidelines from the Vacation Rental Management Association (“VRMA”); and

(c) Owners shall modify check in and check out times for their rental unit based on same day turn around so there is more time between departure and arrival to properly clean their property with the enhanced cleaning procedures.

B. Employees

(i) All TVRU and vacation rental properties, acting through their owners or managers, shall adopt and implement programs to require employees to observe and perform their duties in respect to their TVRU or rental properties, as a condition of their TVRU or rental property license, as follows:

- (a) Train staff for enhanced cleaning protocols;
- (b) Equip and require staff to use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- (c) Advise employees if they are sick to stay home; and
- (d) Wash hands frequently.

C. Guests

(i) All TVRU and vacation rental properties shall adopt, implement and perform, to the extent possible, guest practices that include as a condition of their TVRU or rental property license, the following:

- (a) Remote check-in;
- (b) Enhanced messaging to guests concerning the then existing health orders in effect in Garrett County, Maryland;
- (c) Instruct guests to bring grocery items, paper products, and cleaning products with them in order to reduce the burden on local community; and
- (d) Advise all guests of the requirements of Garrett County and the State of Maryland in respect to their obligations:

While visiting our community please practice social distancing:

- To wear a face mask is required in all retail or public establishments.
- To wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when visiting retail of public establishments.
- If they feel ill with COVID-19 symptoms, please self-isolate.
- If they have questions regarding COVID-19 while visiting Garrett County, Maryland, they should call the Garrett County COVID-19 Hotline at 301-334-7698.

- To please notify the owner or property manager of the TVRU or rental property if a guest tests positive for COVID-19 or develops signs or symptoms of the virus before checking out so that the Garrett County Health Department, as well as cleaning staff, can be notified, promptly.

D. Occupancy

- Occupancy of TVRU and Rental Properties shall comply with the Executive Order, guidance from the Office of Legal Council, and the Order of the Health Officer for Garrett County, Maryland and limited to ten (10) non-family members.

THIS ORDER MAY BE MODIFIED OR REVOKED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR THE CHAIRMAN AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING IN THE EVENT OF THE FOLLOWING:


1. An unexpected increase in hospitalizations or a sustained increase in cases requiring intensive care;
2. Indications that people are disregarding physical distancing guidelines; and
3. Significant outbreaks of community transmission where contact tracing cannot establish the route of the spread.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO PLACED MY HAND THIS 14TH DAY OF MAY 2020.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

By 
Paul C. Edwards, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kevin G. Null,
County Administrator