

LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDERS

To slow the spread of COVID-19 local and state leaders have passed emergency ordinances that impact Grand Strand residents and visitors.

City of Myrtle Beach

All accommodations businesses in the City of Myrtle Beach, including hotels, motels, condo hotels, rental properties, inclusive of private management companies and Airbnb, VRBO style lodging, plus public and private campgrounds:

- Shall not accept new reservations or extend current reservations for any period prior to May effective immediately (such time limit is subject to further modification), except as indicated below.
- Existing reservations made for a period beginning Saturday, March 28, 2020, through April 30, 2020, will be rescheduled or canceled.
- Those units consistently occupied since March 1, 2020, are exempt from the order but may not be joined by other occupants including friends and family members.
- All visitors who do not meet the above exemption must vacate the property by noon, Sunday, March 29, 2020.

All amusements designed to attract and accommodate visitors, are hereby ordered to close effective Friday, March 27, 2020, including but not limited to:

- Movie and live performance theaters.
- Golf courses in the City limits (although locals' play is allowed)
- Mini golf courses
- Moped and golf cart rental operations
- Amusement parks and arcades

As ensuring public health is a shared responsibility:

- Residents are requested to continue to wash or sanitize hands frequently, to frequently disinfect home and work surfaces that may lead to the spread of the coronavirus, and to practice even more stringent social distancing procedures.
- Businesses that remain open to the public are requested to:
 - Redouble all CDC and DHEC recommended sanitation and disinfection procedures, and to emphasize such procedures to their employees.
 - Establish safe distancing guidelines for all cashier and payment areas to encourage a separation of customers of at least six feet between customers.
 - Enforce six feet separation requirements whenever possible in waiting rooms, lobby areas, and workstations.
 - Encourage that business be conducted over the telephone or electronically whenever possible.

May 11, 2020 – 8B – Amendment to Address Maximum Occupancy of Passenger and Service Elevators – Revisions removed the limit of one guest on elevators and added elevators should have signs detailing elevator occupancy limits, social distancing, use of face masks in elevators and encouraging use of stairs.

May 4, 2020 - 1A - Restaurants – Emergency Order 1A was issued near the start of the State of Emergency. The Order allowed for additional signage for restaurants during the prohibition on dine-in services. Now that Governor McMaster has authorized outdoor dining starting May 4, this amendment is to allow for up to 25 percent of a restaurants required parking area to be taken up with tents and extra tables and chair for outdoor dining. The order also imposes many of the same restrictions that are in place for hotels, as well as the guidelines from the Governor's Executive Order relating to hygiene and sanitization for outdoor dining.

May 4, 2020 – 8A - Hotels and Short-Term Rentals – Emergency Order 8A was issued on April 30 and this dealt with the “soft-opening period” for hotels and short-term rentals. In addition to operations, sanitization and public safety measures, the initial Emergency Order provided that accommodations businesses shall be allowed to honor existing reservations for the period of May 1-May 15. There was no restriction on new or existing reservations made for a check-in date of May 16 or later. This new amendment to Executive Order 8A moves the “soft-opening period” end date to May 14, meaning that accommodations businesses will be able to accept new reservations for the weekend, beginning Friday, May 15.

April 30, 2020 – Accommodations Update – Myrtle Beach City Council passed emergency order #8 requiring accommodations businesses to implement procedures to comply with sanitation and hygiene guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19. This order also includes a “soft” reopening period of May 1-May 15. During this time period, accommodations may honor existing reservations but may not accept new reservations from guests wishing to check-in within that timeframe. **The emergency order does not bar accommodations businesses from accepting new reservation from guests wishing to check in May 16 and later.**

April 28, 2020 – Public Beach Access – Myrtle Beach City Council voted to reopen beach access for city residents, visitors and guests starting immediately.

April 20, 2020- Public Beach Access – The City of Myrtle Beach issued Executive Order #7 today which states public access to the beach and adjacent parking will remain closed until one of the following occurs: the emergency declaration expires, City Council directs otherwise or the emergency order is rescinded.

Update to one of the City of Myrtle Beach’s emergency orders, clarifying the rules regarding short-term rentals. With limited exceptions, new reservations for and occupancy of accommodations units within the City of Myrtle Beach are prohibited until May 1 under previous emergency orders. However, property managers, unit owners and others in the accommodations industry have asked whether individual owners of accommodations units are allowed to occupy the units they own during the coronavirus emergency.

With respect to units owned by private individuals, April 3, 2020, amendment makes the following clarifications:

- If a property is occupied as a year-round primary residence, the unit may be used exclusively by that owner while the emergency order is in effect.
- If a property is used exclusively as a second home and is not used as a rental property in any way, then the unit may be used solely by that owner while the emergency order is in effect.
- If, however, that unit is used for rentals, regardless of the frequency, then the unit may not be used by the property owner while the emergency order is in effect.
- For the purpose of this section, if a unit is owned by an entity, such as an LLC, rather than an individual, then the owner of that LLC or other entity is considered to be the owner of the unit.

City of Myrtle Beach Closes Parks, Issues Executive Orders in Response to COVID-19 – All city parks, including Barc Parc North, Barc Parc South, Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium and the tennis courts, closed Monday, April 6, 2020, until further notice. Additionally, Myrtle Beach City Manager John Pedersen issued two new executive orders regarding home deliveries and public conveyances.

City of North Myrtle Beach

- Rental or use of short-term rentals, including but not limited to hotels, motels, condo hotels, rental properties, inclusive of private management companies and HOAs, Airbnb, VRBO style lodging, public and private

campgrounds and other overnight accommodations beginning 7 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, through April 30, 2020, shall be prohibited.

- Visitors currently checked in prior to March 31, 2020, may remain as long as they are abiding by Executive Order number 2020-14 issued by Governor Henry McMaster to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Exempt: Short-Term Rentals extended to Government, Hospital, Health Agency, Law Enforcement, Military, Health Care Personnel and other Critical Personnel actively responding to COVID-19.

April 28, 2020 – City of North Myrtle Beach Short- and Long-Term Rental Update – On April 3, 2020, the City of North Myrtle Beach adopted an Emergency Ordinance prohibiting short-term rentals and long-term rentals through April 30, 2020. However, on April 3, 2020, Gov. Henry McMaster issued Emergency Order Number 2020-19 prohibiting short-term rentals to persons from New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut and other areas “with extensive community transmission of COVID-19.” This Order, recently extended by the governor on April 27, 2020, through May 12, 2020, specifically provides that the governor’s order supersedes and preempts the City’s Emergency Ordinance as it pertains to short-term rentals. Questions about this order should be directed to the Governor’s Office or SCDHEC. The City’s Emergency Ordinance prohibiting long-term rentals only is effective through April 30, 2020. [Read News Release](#)

April 20, 2020 – Public Beach Access - City of North Myrtle Beach reopened public beach accesses at noon April 21. Social distancing is required and groups of three or more will be dispersed. [Read Resolution](#)

Surfside Beach

- Rental and use of short-term rentals, including, but not limited to hotels, motels, condo hotels, rental properties, inclusive of private management companies and HOA’s, Airbnb, VRBO style lodging, and other overnight accommodations for 29 days or less beginning 11 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2020, through April 30, 2020, shall be prohibited. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations. Exempt: Short-term rentals extended to government, hospital, health agency, law enforcement, military and other critical personnel actively responding to COVID-19.

This ordinance goes into effect at 11 a.m. March 28, not 7 a.m. as originally outlined.

April 21, 2020 – Public Beach Access – Surfside Beach voted to open beaches for nonstationary activities. Parking is restricted to those with town decals. [New Ordinance](#)

Horry County

- Shorter-term rentals and amusement type activities in the unincorporated areas of Horry County are prohibited from Saturday, March 28, 2020, at 11 a.m. through April 30, 2020.
- Golf courses are not restricted in the ordinance and are allowed to remain open with appropriate social distancing.

April 20, 2020 – Public Beach Access – Per Gov. McMaster’s latest executive order, public beach accesses in the unincorporated areas of Horry County will reopen on Tuesday, April 21 at noon. The governor’s executive order requiring individuals from different family units to stay 6 or more feet apart remains in effect. Law enforcement will continue to disperse groups of three or more who pose a threat to public health. Horry County Police Department Beach Patrol and River Patrol will remain in place on the beaches and waterways to enforce the governor’s orders. Community members are encouraged to use common sense and make good choices.

Georgetown County

- New short-term rentals in all unincorporated areas of the county beginning at 12 a.m. March 28 and lasting until May 1 are prohibited. This applies to all accommodations businesses in unincorporated areas of the county, including but not limited to condos, hotels, beach houses, Airbnb, campgrounds, hunting cabins and other overnight lodgings. All are prohibited from accepting new reservations for any period of time through the end of April. Any exiting reservations for this time period must be modified or canceled. Visitors currently checked in prior to 12 a.m. March 28 may remain through their existing reservation, but may not extend their stay. Any units consistently occupied by the same occupant since March 1 are exempt, but new occupants including family and friends cannot be added at the unit. Exempt - short-term rentals for applicable health, government, military, law enforcement and other personnel responding to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.
- **April 28, 2020 – Unincorporated Horry County Short-Term Rentals Allowed to Reopen May 1** – Horry County has announced that they will allow their existing ban on short-term rentals in the unincorporated parts of the county to expire on April 30. Properties located in these areas will still be required to comply with the existing Executive Order from the governor, prohibiting rentals to visitors coming from CDC designated “hot spots.” That Executive Order lasts through May 12.

April 21, 2020 – Public Beach Access – Georgetown County beach accesses and Murrells Inlet Marshwalk will remain closed until the end of their state of emergency or May 15. New Ordinance

Pawleys Island

- No new check-ins are permitted for short-term rentals and other overnight accommodations beginning 5 p.m. Saturday, March 28 through April 30, 2020. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations. Long-term rentals of 30 days or more are still permitted by showing a valid lease agreement.

April 30, 2020 – Short-Term Rentals – In a special town council meeting today, the Town of Pawleys Island approved an order to reopen short-term rentals as of May 8.

April 27, 2020 – Town of Pawleys Island Extends Beach Closure and Accommodations Restrictions - The Town of Pawleys Island will reopen the public beach accesses and adjacent public parking lots on Friday, May 1. This is contingent on Georgetown County opening their public beach accesses before or on May 1. Additionally, the prohibition of future check-ins for short term rentals has been extended through May 14, 2020.

Myrtle Beach International Airport

- The Myrtle Beach International Airport and all other airports managed by the Horry County Department of Airports remain open and operational. Horry County Government does not have the authority to make a unilateral decision about the closure of airports. That is under the purview of the Federal Aviation Administration. Airlines can also alter flight schedules. In addition, just like in a hurricane, it is important that the airports remain open for County emergency logistics, including delivery of supplies.
- Please be advised, as airlines reduce capacity nation-wide, some flight changes or cancellations may result. Travelers should check the status of their flight before arriving at the airport. You can find updated arrival and departure information from MYR on our website. Travelers wishing to change or cancel their itinerary should contact their airlines directly. Contact information for all airlines with service at MYR can be found here. Many airlines are offering fee waivers for changes and cancellations. As a reminder, wait times are estimated to be longer than usual due to increased demand. Some itineraries are eligible to be canceled online; refer to your airlines' website for details.
- The chamber nor the City or Horry County have the authority to close MYR airport or to stop airlines from arriving here. This is a federal FAA mandate to remain open during emergencies.

- **April 27, 2020** – Gov. McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-29, which declares a state of emergency throughout the state and allows for the state's response to COVID-19 to continue. The order also includes the closure of South Carolina schools for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year. By law, the governor can declare a state of emergency for up to 15 days. His most recent executive order declaring a state of emergency was issued on April 12 and expires April 27. All existing executive orders issued by the governor will remain in effect with the new state of emergency, unless or until they are otherwise rescinded. While the state of emergency can last for 15 days, the governor can, at any time, rescind individual orders he has issued to respond to the virus' impact to the state.
- **April 20, 2020** – Gov. McMaster announced the following modifications to executive orders due to COVID-19:
 - As of noon April 21, the order closing beaches across the state will be lifted. The decision regarding public access to the beach will be returned to local jurisdiction.
 - As of 5 p.m. today, April 20, the order closing certain non-essential businesses such as furniture stores, department stores, clothing and shoe stores, is cancelled. Social distancing is still required. Additionally, these stores may only allow 20% of the total occupancy or five customers per 1,000 sq. ft, whichever is least, inside the store at one time. See the list of businesses that are still closed here.
 - Groups of three or more are still prohibited.
- **April 12, 2020** – Gov. Henry McMaster extended the State of Emergency an additional 15 days, or through April 27. The State of Emergency declaration and extension also extends all relevant closures and all executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic for an additional 15 days. This means that the in-service dining order, non-essential business closure order, work or home order, public access to beaches and waterways closure order and all related orders are in effect for an additional 15 days.
- **April 6, 2020** – Gov. Henry McMaster issued a mandatory "home or work" order, effective Tuesday, April 7, at 5 p.m. Under this order, all South Carolinians must stay home unless going to work, visiting family, exercising outdoors, or obtaining essential goods and services. SLED Guidance on Compliance With Gov. McMaster's "Home or Work" Order
 - Additionally, retail stores that remain open are required to limit the number of customers in the store to no more than five customers per 1,000 sq. ft. or 20% capacity according to the fire marshal, whichever is less.
 - No additional businesses were closed under this order.
- **April 3, 2020** - Gov. McMaster issued a new executive order closing additional non-essential businesses. Gov. McMaster also issued an executive order immediately suspending short-term rentals from CDC identified hotspots. This includes but is not limited to hotels, motels, rental houses, Airbnb and timeshares.
- **March 31, 2020** - Gov. Henry McMaster issued executive order 2020-17 closing all non-essential businesses in South Carolina that include close contact between individuals. Closures are effective at 5 p.m. on April 1, 2020. Read Executive Order. Business owners who need clarification should complete the Essential Business Clarification form at sccommerce.com/clarification-business-designation-form or contact the S.C. Department of Commerce by email at covid19sc@sccommerce.com or phone at 803-734-2873.
- Gov. Henry McMaster has closed public access to all beaches and has closed all public boat ramps, landings and other access points on the state's lakes, rivers and waterways. "This Section does not apply to individuals possessing a current, valid commercial fishing license or permit to the extent such individuals may seek to utilize or rely upon public piers, docks, wharfs, boat ramps, or boat landings in connection with commercial fishing activities," the governor's order reads. The order does not impact the rights of private property owners living on beaches, lakes, rivers, or waterways in any way. **Update:** On April 16, the governor issued a new executive order reopening public boat ramps.
- All restaurants and bars across the state are prohibited from providing dine-in service. Outdoor seating is a dine-in service and is prohibited by the governor's executive order. These establishments may continue to provide curbside pickup, takeout and delivery. Restaurants are allowed to sell sealed containers of beer and wine for curbside pickup or "to-go" orders only. No open containers or delivery services.
- All South Carolina state parks are closed effective Saturday, March 28 through April 30, 2020. This includes day-use areas such as picnic grounds, lakefronts and trails. Visitors currently occupying campsites and cabins may remain through the duration of their rental reservation as long as they continue practicing social distancing. All new reservation arrivals between March 28 and April 30 will be canceled and refunds issued.

- By order of the state, there is a 14-day mandatory quarantine of anyone coming to South Carolina from a COVID-19 hotspot. This includes New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and the city of New Orleans. Visitors are required to isolate or self-quarantine for 14 days from the time of entry in South Carolina or the duration of the person's stay in South Carolina, whichever period is shorter.