CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR

Emergency Order #27 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as Extended by Executive Order 2020-05

Restriction of hotels and other lodging providers to provision of lodging for vulnerable populations and essential workers

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-04, An order declaring a state of emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor activated the Emergency Operations Center at the Incident Planning and Operations Center in Concord to assist in the State's response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 23, 2020, the first New Hampshire death resulting from COVID-19 occurred; and

WHEREAS, as of Sunday, April 5, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that every U.S. state has reported cases of COVID-19 to the CDC, and that 304,826 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have occurred in the United States and territorial partners with 7,616 deaths; and

WHEREAS, experts anticipate that while a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have severe symptoms and require hospitalization, particularly individuals who are elderly or already have underlying chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, experts indicate that COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected symptomatic person to others through respiratory droplets, including:

- Through the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that COVID-19 may be spread before an infected person shows symptoms of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person, that COVID-19 is currently spreading very easily and sustainably, and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of Friday, April 3, 2020, the CDC reports that the United States is currently in the acceleration phase of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as of Friday, April 3, 2020, the CDC reports that 50 U.S. states and territorial partners are reporting some community spread of COVID-19, meaning people have been infected with the virus who may not have the usual risks of international travel or known contact with a confirmed case; and

WHEREAS, as of Sunday, April 5, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services has reported 669 cases of COVID-19; 9 deaths; 92 hospitalizations; 2,100 individuals are being monitored; and all 10 counties in the State have been impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health has found that community-based transmission of COVID-19 continues to increase in the State and has been identified in the majority of counties; and

WHEREAS, the White House and CDC have extended their Slow the Spread Guidelines for COVID-19 to April 30, and these guidelines direct Americans to, among other things, work from home whenever possible; avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people; avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts; and avoid discretionary travel; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020 the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-05, extending the State of Emergency Declared in Executive Order 2020-04 for an additional 21 days; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2020, the Governor issued Emergency Order #26, extending Emergency Orders 2, 6 and 16 through May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of April 6, 2020, the States of Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont have restricted lodging providers to provision of lodging for vulnerable populations, essential workers, and other limited categories.

Now therefore, pursuant to Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Order 2020-05 it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, and to promote and secure the safety and protection of the people of New Hampshire, all lodging providers within the State of New Hampshire are hereby restricted to providing lodging for vulnerable populations and essential workers only, as those terms are defined in this Order.

2. For purposes of this Order, lodging providers shall include hotels; motels; bed and breakfasts; inns; and short term rentals such as those made available through VRBO, Homeaway, AirBnb and other services. The term lodging providers shall not include public and private campgrounds, which may remain open.

3. For purposes of this Order, vulnerable populations shall include the following:

a) Children in emergency placements

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b) Persons who are victims of or at risk of domestic violence
c) Homeless individuals and families for whom hotels or other lodging accommodations and operations are being used as emergency shelters
d) New Hampshire residents who are self-isolating or self-quarantining
e) Individuals receiving long-term, specialized medical care from a physician or other medical provider located in New Hampshire and accompanying family members
f) Individuals in need of housing, accommodation and shelter due to extenuating circumstances such as fire or casualty
g) Individuals unable to return to their homes outside of New Hampshire due to flight cancellations, border closures, or other direct and material constraints on travel.

4. For purposes of this Order, essential workers shall include any person employed by a business or organization that qualifies as an essential business pursuant to Emergency Order #17 and Exhibit A thereto.

5. On-line reservations shall be suspended, and lodging providers shall post a prominent notice on their web platforms to advise potential guests that reservations for lodging in New Hampshire, as allowed by this Order, shall be accepted by phone only.

6. Lodging providers may permit existing guests to remain through the end of their scheduled stay but may not allow stay extensions or new reservations, except for the purposes permitted in this Order.

7. The Division of Public Health and State or local police shall have the authority to enforce this Order.

8. This Order shall remain in effect until May 4, 2020.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 6th day of April, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.

Chris T. Sununu

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