



March 24, 2020

Re: Covid-19 and Short-Term Rentals

Dear Short-term Rental Owner,

Thankfully, the Grand Traverse region and East Bay Township are geographically distanced from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that does not mean the impact has not been felt in northern Michigan and the number affected is expected to rise. Many residents and workers in East Bay Township have had their lives and livelihoods altered, including Short-Term Rental owners.

On Monday, March 23, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued a ["Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order 2020-2021](#), directing all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. The order went into effect 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2020 through 12:01 a.m. Monday, April 13, 2020.

While *Stay Home, Stay Safe Order* does not specifically address short-term rentals, two sections of the Order are helpful in framing short-term rental operations. They are:

- Section 2: "All individuals currently living in the State of Michigan are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence."
- Under the Order, hotels and motels may remain open, but limit functions and operations, engaging in activities which provide shelter and basic needs to the extent they are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment efforts and serving critical infrastructure workers.

Since short-term rental properties do not receive a principal residence exemption, accordingly they do not function as a place of residence according to Section 2. In that your short-term rental may be used as a place to provide shelter for those who developed symptoms while staying at your rental and must continue through a 14-day quarantine, or may be used to serve critical infrastructure employees, please follow the practices for management and guests recommended by the State of Michigan and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Practice good hygiene, making sure your short-term rental has tissues, cleaning wipes, and trash receptacles with bagged liners, and soap at every sink.
- Stop handshaking, use other noncontact forms of greeting; limit interaction including guest-to-guest, guest-to-manager, and between cleaning and management staff.
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces, and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Frequently disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or getting fresh air through outdoor recreation consistent with safe distancing from others.

Protocols for [cleaning and disinfecting](#) can be found on the CDC's website, [cdc.gov](#). Information regarding disinfectant cleaning products are detailed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on their site, [epa.gov/coronavirus](#).

We hope that you, your families, your staff and your guests remain safe and healthy during this time. For additional information and updates about the Covid-19 pandemic, please refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> and <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>.

For questions and concerns, the Planning & Zoning Department can quickly be contacted through phone and email.

- Phone: (231) 947-8681
- Email: jmyers@eastbaytp.org

East Bay Charter Township
Planning & Zoning Department