



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**March 27, 2020**

Karen Powell, Public Health Director  
Bryan King, Chairman Rutherford County Commissioners  
Frankie Hamrick, Emergency Management Director

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY SHORT TERM RENTAL SUSPENSION REQUEST**

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to pose a looming threat to the health and safety of the people of Rutherford County. As the situation continues to develop and new cases are reported throughout the state of North Carolina, and, especially, in the foothills region, our local government continues to be proactive in taking the necessary steps to stem the spread of COVID-19 through all appropriate means.

At this time, Rutherford County government, along with public health and safety officials, are requesting that the use of all short-term rentals be suspended in Rutherford County until further notice effective as of today, March 27, 2020. This action is consistent with actions taken by other counties and other communities across the state and nation and done for the purpose of stopping the spread of the COVID-19 virus due to human travel. The best available medical evidence confirms that human travel promotes the spread of this disease and the presence of visitors in Rutherford County has the potential to exacerbate the strain on the limited healthcare resources and facilities available within Rutherford County. This request is made to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a manner and at a pace that overwhelms ability of Rutherford County and its healthcare partners to respond effectively in the coming days.

We recognize the potential need to allow the use of hotels and other facilities for emergency service workers, essential service workers, displaced residents needing shelter, travelers in Rutherford County for legitimate business concerns, traveler safety, and other response and mitigation efforts related to COVID-19 in the coming days and weeks. These uses will be allowed pending review in the coming days.

We realize this request places a burden on hotels, motels, and all those involved in short-term rentals and the accommodation sector of Rutherford County's economy and this request is not made lightly, but the imminent danger of COVID-19, if left unchecked by measures such as this, increases the potential for infection in our community.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we stand together to beat this disease. If you have any further questions you may contact the Public Information Officer at [covid19@rutherfordcountync.gov](mailto:covid19@rutherfordcountync.gov). **To receive daily local COVID alerts, please text your zip code to 888777.**

*County Commissioners*

**Bryan A. King**, *Chairman*  
**Alan Toney**, *Vice Chairman*

**Eddie Holland**  
**Greg Lovelace**  
**Michael Benfield**

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**Richard Williams**, *County Attorney*