

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 19, 2020

To our Mendocino County Business Partners,

We have received troubling information suggesting that some hotels, motels, and other forms of lodging are continuing to accept reservations for vacation, recreation, and/or other nonessential purposes. Per section 9.j of the Health Officer's Shelter in Place of March 18, 2020, the renting of hotel rooms, motel rooms, or any other form of transient lodging for nonessential purposes is forbidden. Violation of this order may result in criminal penalties, civil liability, and other consequences.

For clarity, local lodgings are not permitted to rent any rooms or lodgings except for:

- Current long-term occupants using the facility as their primary residence;
- Rental to governmental agencies for uses defined by those agencies as essential;
- Rental to persons under quarantine or isolation orders from the Mendocino County Health Officer, **only if expressly approved** by the County Health Officer;
- Rental to homeless persons in Mendocino County who require transient lodging to shelter in place;
- Rental to essential businesses who require transient lodging to fulfill essential business functions, such as maintenance workers for power lines, telecommunications systems, and other essential infrastructure.

Businesses are responsible for ensuring full compliance with this order and maintaining documentation establishing that each and every rental was made only for essential purposes. Any reservations for nonessential purposes must be immediately canceled, and each business should cease taking any reservations until it can fully verify and ensure that any rentals occur only for an essential purpose expressly authorized by the Health Officer's order.

Businesses are hereby advised that in addition to criminal penalties, violation of this order may subject them to civil liability. Any business that remains open in violation of this order may be committing negligence *per se* and risks civil liability for all damages created by any viral transmission that occurs at their place of business. This may include medical costs (whether or not covered by insurance), lost wages, pain and suffering, loss of consortium, and any and all other damages associated with the illness or death of their customers or employees.



Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD
Mendocino County Interim Health Officer

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