

**CITY OF SISTERS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-03
AN ORDER TO PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE SISTERS COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19
STATE OF EMERGENCY: DISCOURAGING TOURIST TRAVEL AND RELATED ACTIVITIES TO SISTERS
EXCEPT FOR PERMITTED ESSENTIAL TRAVEL.**

April 14, 2020

WHEREAS, City of Sisters (“City”), an Oregon municipal corporation, has all powers that the constitutions, statutes, and common law of the United States and Oregon expressly or impliedly grant or allow City; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that can cause respiratory disease with the potential to cause serious illness and/or loss of life for individuals, especially individuals with underlying health conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oregon (Executive Order No. 20-03), finding that COVID-19 has created a threat to public health and safety, and constitutes a statewide emergency under ORS 401.025(1); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, City’s city manager declared a state of emergency in City by Administrative Order No. 2020-01; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Kate Brown issued the Stay Home, Save Lives Order (Executive Order No. 20-12), which order, among other things, directed individuals to minimize travel other than essential travel (a) to or from a home, residence, or workplace, (b) for obtaining food, shelter, essential consumer needs, education, health care, or emergency services, (c) for essential business and government services, (d) for the care of family members, household members, elderly persons, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons, (e) as directed by government officials, law enforcement, and/or courts, and (f) consistent with the directives of executive orders issued by Governor Kate Brown and guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (“OHA”); and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Sisters City Council (the “Council”) adopted Resolution No. 2020-06 pursuant to which the Council ratified the city manager’s emergency declaration contained in Administrative Order No. 2020-01; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2020-02, the city manager extended City’s state of emergency declaration to May 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners approved and executed Order 2020-017 pursuant to which Deschutes County encouraged individuals to remain at their place of residence and prohibited short-term rental stays in the rural, unincorporated areas of Deschutes County; and

WHEREAS, the city manager has been in regular contact with local agency leaders and public health experts, including the Deschutes County Health Services Director, for countywide information and updates; and

WHEREAS, City is closely monitoring updated information for the State of Oregon through OHA and for the United States through the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, a primary focus of City during the state of emergency is to restrict the spread of COVID-19 and to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Deschutes County Emergency Manager Nathan Garibay has noted that local hospitals' and emergency responders' supply of masks and critical personal protective equipment is in dangerously short supply, and that social distancing and staying at home is now the best tool to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, travel between different communities (a) has been shown to facilitate the spread and transmission of COVID-19, and (b) poses risks to travelers, the communities they visit, individuals in their home communities, and the public; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that City encourages individuals to keep as close to their homes as possible while this crisis continues; and

WHEREAS, the tourism industry has already been responsive to this COVID-19 crisis. Representatives of local and regional tourism industry communicated early in the COVID-19 crisis to not visit City (or anywhere) during the crisis, and individuals need to stay safe and stay home. This Administrative Order No. 2020-03 (this "Order") is intended to further the efforts described above and to create certainty and consistency and uniform application of tourism and short-term rental restrictions during this unique situation in furtherance of the health, safety, and welfare of the entire community; and

WHEREAS, City has been a significant destination for tourism and other vacation travel, however, the presence of COVID-19 in Deschutes County and throughout the State of Oregon makes tourism and other recreational and non-essential travel potentially hazardous to public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the compounding impacts and highly infectious nature of COVID-19 demand unprecedented measures to protect everyone and if non-essential travel persists or increases, City may consider such appropriate measures to prohibit non-essential travel within and/or to City, including, without limitation, fines, penalties, and other enforcement measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF SISTERS ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Findings. The above-stated findings contained in this Order are hereby adopted.
2. Non-Essential Travel Discouraged. To reduce exposure to and spread of COVID-19, and in support of State of Oregon orders and guidance to minimize all non-essential travel, City strongly encourages individuals (a) to remain at their place of permanent residence, and (b) not to travel to City except as absolutely necessary for health, safety, and/or employment purposes, and consistent with the

executive orders of Governor Brown (and guidance from OHA), including, without limitation, the Stay Home, Save Lives Order (Executive Order No. 20-12). Without otherwise limiting the generality of the immediately preceding sentence, travel away from home for vacation purposes is strongly discouraged and should be avoided.

3. Short-Term Rentals Discouraged.

3.1 All transient stays in City at hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, RV parks, short-term rentals, and all other temporary lodging options that have not commenced as of the effective date of this Order are strongly discouraged, except for such uses and/or stays as are necessary for health, safety, and/or employment purposes, and/or otherwise for essential travel as further described in Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Order (Executive Order No. 20-12).

3.2 As of the effective date of this Order, owners and operators of temporary lodging facilities in City (e.g., hotels, motels, and short-term rentals) are strongly urged to (a) refrain from accepting any new reservations for tourist accommodation(s), and (b) only accept reservations needed for health, safety, and/or employment purposes and/or otherwise for essential travel as further described in Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Order (Executive Order No. 20-12).

3.3 This Order does not apply to the following: (a) reservations for stays longer than 30 consecutive days; (b) residential use, of any length, by persons without permanent homes (unhoused or homeless individuals) who are staying at a lodging facility through a voucher or other similar assistance program; (c) use and/or occupancy of a short-term rental (as that term is defined in Sisters Municipal Code Chapter 5.50) by the owner or a member of the owner's family; and/or (d) City residents who have moved from their primary residence to allow a family member or roommate to self-quarantine due to COVID-19.

4. Effective Date; Application; Notice. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until May 13, 2020, unless rescinded or extended by the city manager or the Council. This Order, and the provision contained herein, apply to all areas within City's incorporated limits. City will give notice of this Order through press releases, public media, and such other means the city manager deems reasonable under the circumstances.

ADOPTED AND MADE EFFECTIVE this 14th day of April 2020.


Cory Misley, City Manager