

March 23: TOWN OF OAK ISLAND ISSUES DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY SUSPENDING SHORT-TERM RENTALS and ENCOURAGING ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – To further reduce the possible community spread of COVID-19, the Town of Oak Island has declared that all short-term rentals within the Town are suspended through April 30th, 2020 and all current short-term renters are required to vacate the rental premises and leave the Town no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Additionally, the Town has ordered that no new rental occupancies of a duration of less than 90 days are allowed within the Town between now and April 30th, 2020. The Town also strongly discourages non-essential travel within the Town. These restrictions are contained in a Declaration of State of Emergency issued by the Town on March 21st, 2020 (and as amended March 23, 2020).

The Oak Island Town Council continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. The March 23rd Amended Declaration is the most recent step the Town has taken to reduce the possibility of the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect Town residents and citizens.

The Town Administration remains in constant communication with other Federal, State and Local Authorities, seeking guidance and information relevant to slowing the spread of this COVID-19. As evidenced by the Governor's Executive Order announced a few hours ago, which declares that public schools (grade kindergarten through 12th grade will remain closed until May 15th, 2020), lowers the mass gathering threshold, and mandates the closing of salons, barber shops, gyms, and massage therapists as of 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, this situation remains fluid. As such, the Town Council reminds the public that the Town's restrictions are likewise subject to change.

The Town Council will hold a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, March 31st, 2020 at 1 p.m. In the meantime, Town Officials will continue closely monitoring the situation, including the effects of the March 23rd Amended Declaration, and assess whether additional protective measures need to be implemented. Town Council also stands ready to conduct an Emergency Meeting if the circumstances dictate that such a meeting is needed.

A copy of the March 23rd, 2020 Amended Declaration can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.oakislandnc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AmendedDeclaration032320.pdf>