



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Routt County Commissioners Will Allow Short-Term Lodging Prohibition to Expire on May 31

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO – May 26, 2020 — In their meeting today, the Routt County Commissioners unanimously agreed to allow the short-term lodging prohibition Public Health Order 2020-01 to expire on May 31. With the local short-term lodging prohibition ending, the State’s Public Health Order takes precedence that allows short-term lodging except at “private short-term vacation rentals.”

During the meeting, the Commissioners asked for a recommendation from Public Health officials. Dr. Brian Harrington, the County’s Medical Officer said, “We are comfortable with the Lodging Association mitigation plan and to let the lodging prohibition expire. We think it was a rational and effective ban to address the concerns we initially had in this outbreak. Our present situation is much improved from March though, and we accept the Lodging Association’s projections of less than 50% occupancy for June.”

The Commissioners discussed how the local lodging order may affect short-term rentals like VRBs and Airbnb’s. “We know from the State Public Health Order that this type of rental is not allowed at present. I am fine with us following the state guidelines and allowing other types of lodging to open,” said Commissioner Doug Monger.

The language of the State’s Safer at Home Order says lodging is critical infrastructure and can operate under the Public Health Order with some exceptions: “Hotels, and places of accommodation, excluding private, short-term vacation-style rentals such as those arranged through an online hosting platform, including but not limited to VRBO or Airbnb, homeowner rentals, and privately-owned residences for rent that are rented for a period of 30 days or fewer, except if offered for use for the public health response.” [Page 27 Safer at Home Amendment](#)

The end of the lodging prohibition also means that private campgrounds can operate with site mitigation protocols that can be found on the state’s website: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/campgrounds>.

In addition, the Commissioners discussed the need to follow [Routt County’s site mitigation protocols](#) at all types of lodging facilities. “Routt County’s Public Health Order 2020-03 has clear guidelines for keeping employees and guests safe and everyone should follow these guidelines. If you are making money on any type of lodging, you need to follow the protocol,” said Commissioner Tim Corrigan. The Lodging Association last week shared the standards they were

going to follow that meet the Routt County guidelines: The American Hotel and Lodging Association in [their “Stay Safe” initiative](#). The Vacation Rental Management Association [Cleaning Guidelines for COVID-10](#).

In addition, to the site mitigation protocols, Commissioner Beth Melton stressed the need for clear communications to guests. “I applaud the Lodging Association’s promise to us that they will communicate the Five Commitments of Containment to guests upon arrival and share other key information about our local public health orders in order to keep visitors and residents both safe.”

More information about Public Health Orders and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) can be found at www.covid19routtcounty.com.

Five Commitments to Containment:

- Maintain six feet of physical distance
- Wash my hands often
- Cover my face in public
- Stay at home if I am at risk or sick
- Seek testing immediately if I have symptoms

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