



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY TIMEFRAME EXTENDED BY TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN MANAGER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER TIMEFRAMES EXTENDED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

APRIL 14, 2020: The Town of South Kingstown is monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, is following State and Federal guidance to help promote the health and safety of our community, and is implementing additional precautionary measures to reduce opportunities for COVID-19 transmission in South Kingstown.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the State of Emergency declared by the Governor March 9th, 2020, the Town Council voted on March 15th, 2020 to authorize a Declaration of Emergency in the Town of South Kingstown. **On April 13th, 2020, the Town Council voted to extend the end date of the local Declaration of Emergency from April 15th, 2020 to May 11th, 2020.** The full Renewed Declaration of Emergency Ordinance is attached to this press Release for ease in reference.

In addition, **the Town Manager has authorized amendments to the following Executive Orders, effective immediately, including the extension of the timeframes through May 11th, 2020** in order to align the timeframes with the Declaration of Emergency.

- Executive Order 2020-02, initially authorized March 21st, 2020
- Executive Order 2020-03, initially authorized March 25th, 2020 and as amended March 27th, 2020
- Executive Order 2020-04, initially authorized March 26th, 2020
- Executive Order 2020-05, initially authorized March 30th, 2020
- Executive Order 2020-06, initially authorized April 7th, 2020
- Executive Order 2020-07, initially authorized April 8th, 2020

The South Kingstown Police Department is authorized to enforce the regulations of the Declaration of Emergency and the Executive Orders in accordance with State directives and Emergency Management Statute. Each of the full Executive Orders, as amended, are attached to this Press Release for ease in reference.

Guidance for Members of the Public: During this pandemic, all residents are strongly advised to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing. The Town and the Governor have ordered residents to please stay home, except for running essential errands such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, and to remain home if you are sick (with any symptoms). Gatherings have been limited to no more than 5 people, and be advised that even when gathering in small numbers, social distancing guidance is to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other people. Travelers to Rhode Island and some residents are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and per the Governor's Orders. Residents are strongly advised to stay up to date on the Federal, State, and local response to and guidance on, the evolving COVID-19 situation. Please visit the Town's COVID-19 webpage for up to date information and links to Federal, State, and local resources www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19. Because of the evolving nature of this ongoing community health situation, the Town may implement additional mitigation measures with short notice, and the information provided here is subject to change. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. For additional updates from the Town, as well as information and resources related to COVID-19, we encourage residents to visit www.southkingstownri.com. Updates and information will also be shared via the Town's official Facebook page, www.facebook.com/southkingstownri. Questions can be referred to the Town Manager's Office at (401) 789-9331 x1201.

**Town of South Kingstown
Renewed Declaration of Emergency**

On March 15, 2020, pursuant to Sec. 3214 of the South Kingstown Home Rule Charter, the Town Council declared the existence of an emergency. The basis for the Council's emergency declaration was the danger to health and life posed by the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, as set forth in Governor Gina Raimondo's Executive Order 20-03 dated March 9, 2020 declaring a state of emergency, and Executive Order 20-03 dated March 13, 2020 containing a supplemental emergency declaration.

Since the Council's declaration of emergency, Governor Raimondo has issued 14 (as of April 9, 2020) further supplemental emergency declarations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and circumstances have become more dire both locally, statewide, and nationwide. Therefore, the Town Council deems it prudent to declare that a state of emergency continues to exist in Town, and hereby extends the end date of its original emergency declaration from April 15, 2020 to May 11, 2020.

The substance of the Council's original declaration of emergency remains in full force and effect, except to the extent that it has been superseded by an Executive Order of the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

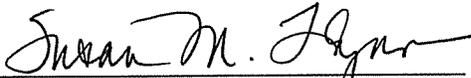
The Council hereby delegates the authority to the Town Manager to take any and all actions deemed necessary to address the ongoing emergency. The Town Manager shall report actions taken pursuant to this emergency declaration to the Council and to the public as soon as practicable, including ongoing updates on the Town's website.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until May 11, 2020 unless renewed, modified, or terminated by a subsequent ordinance. Provided, however, that if the statewide state of emergency is not extended by executive order of Governor Gina Raimondo on or before May 8, 2020, this Ordinance shall expire on that date.

Adopted April 14, 2020.

By Order of the Town Council.

Attest:


Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk





Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Office of the Town Manager

Town Hall ▪ 180 High Street ▪ Wakefield, RI 02879

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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-02 (AMENDED)

In an effort to protect our community and do all we can to help control the spread of COVID-19, and in accordance with a directive issued March 16, 2020 by the Governor of Rhode Island, and Executive Order 20-08 issued March 20, 2020 by the Governor of Rhode Island, the following emergency measures adopted March 16, 2020 are amended as follows:

Effective March 17, 2020 all restaurants and coffee shops will shut down and remain closed except for take-out, drive-through, and delivery services.

Effective March 21, 2020 all Class B licensees are permitted to sell up to 2 bottles of wine and 144 ounces of beer in original factory sealed containers, with take-out food orders, provided such sales shall be made in accordance with §1.4.10 of the RI Department of Business Regulation Liquor Control Regulations 230-RICR-30-10-1. Any restaurant or establishment that offers beer or wine pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order must do so in accordance with the social distancing protocols and guidance set forth by the RI Department of Health.

In addition, all gatherings of more than 5 people are prohibited.

The Police Department is authorized to enforce these regulations in accordance with state directives and the Emergency Management statute.

This executive order shall remain in effect until May 11, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Issued April 14, 2020.

By

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-03 (SECOND AMENDMENT)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is the most effective and important tool available to combat the spread of the pandemic;

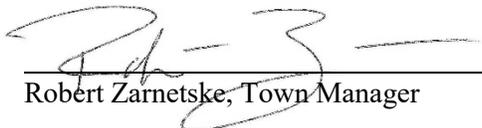
NOW THEREFORE, the following emergency measures are hereby enacted:

1. Travel to South Kingstown is discouraged for any non-resident or seasonal residents. Full-time residents are encouraged to restrict travel for essential purposes only, such as medical care, care of a family member, or obtaining food and other necessary provisions. For the purposes of this order, full-time students at the University of Rhode Island that are residing in Town, whether off campus or on campus, are considered full-time residents.
2. Any non-resident or seasonal resident arriving to South Kingstown must immediately Self-Quarantine (as that term is hereinafter defined) for two weeks and follow any Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) guidelines pertaining to the pandemic. This provision shall not apply to a nonresident whose employment requires entry into Town, so long as the activities conducted in Town are limited to those necessary for employment.
3. Any non-resident property owner who travels to South Kingstown to temporarily reside on or in their property must remain at that property for the duration of their stay or 14 days, whichever is shorter.
4. The term "Self-Quarantine" means to remain at your residence except for medical care or emergencies. Self-Quarantine includes having food and other necessities delivered to the residence rather than leaving the residence to obtain such food/necessities. Persons under Self-Quarantine must monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath.

5. All Short-Term Lodging owners and operators shall inform their guests when making reservations and upon arrival that the guests' travel and movement within South Kingstown is restricted due to the ongoing pandemic, and that all guests must remain on the Short-Term Lodging property for the duration of their stay. All owners and operators of Short-Term Lodging facilities must arrange delivery service for their guests during the effective period, so that guests are not required to leave the Short-Term Lodging for food or other essentials. For purposes of this emergency ordinance, "Short-Term Lodging" is lodging of thirty (30) days or fewer, including, but not limited to, lodging in hotels, inns, and motels.
6. All Short-Term Lodging owners and operators that do not have an on-site property manager shall cease taking new reservations for occupancy dates which fall within the effective period of the emergency ordinance, unless the lodging is provided to public safety professionals and/or medical professionals who are locating in Town for the purpose of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This provision specifically includes, but is not limited to, owners and operations taking reservations through online rental platforms such as Air BnB.
7. All essential businesses remaining open in the Town of South Kingstown must post a copy of this order in a prominent place, so that it is visible to all people entering the business.
8. Any violation of any provision of this executive order is punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), with every day a violation continues considered a separate violation. The South Kingstown Police Department shall have the authority to enforce this executive order.
9. To the extent that any provision in this order is inconsistent with any executive order issued by the Governor of Rhode Island for dealing with COVID-19, the executive order of the Governor shall supersede this order and govern in its stead.
10. This executive order shall remain in effect until May 11, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Date: April 14, 2020

By



Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:



Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04 (AMENDED)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is the most effective and important tool available to combat the spread of the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of Department of Health directives and to prevent crowding at retail and grocery stores, the following emergency measures are enacted as of March 26, 2020:

Retail and Grocers must:

- Allow no more than 20% of stated fire capacity in the store at a time, not including employees;
- Require staff to count the number of customers entering and exiting the store and enforce limits;
- Clearly mark 6' spacing in lines and other high-traffic areas. Stores should consider posting signage or using ropes to direct customers and to limit bottlenecks/encourage flow in high-density areas of stores;
- Designate employees to monitor social distancing and assist customers;
- Maximize space between customers and employees at checkout;
- Designate employee(s) to ensure the cleaning guidelines set by the CDC are followed;
- Discontinue self-serve foods and product sampling; and
- Offer exclusive hours for those in high-risk populations, including seniors, where stores will restrict entrance to maintain 10% of fire capacity.

Larger grocery stores and retailers with more than 25,000 square feet are encouraged to offer pickup and/or delivery options. This executive order shall remain in effect until May 11, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk

Date: April 14, 2020



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-05 (AMENDED)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is the most effective and important tool available to combat the spread of the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, the following emergency measures are enacted as of Monday, March 30, 2020:

1. All South Kingstown residents are required to stay home unless traveling to work, traveling for medical treatment or obtaining necessities (food, medicine, gas, etc.). South Kingstown residents may still go outside to exercise and get fresh air, however, they must practice social distancing while outside and avoid touching surfaces frequently touched by others.
2. All gatherings of more than five (5) people in any public or private space such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, library, theater, place of worship, parade, fair, festival, park or beach, are prohibited.
3. All non-critical retail businesses shall cease in person operations. Critical retail businesses include, but are not limited to, food and beverage stores (e.g., supermarkets, liquor, specialty food, and convenience stores, farmers' markets, food banks and pantries), pharmacies and medical supply stores, compassion centers, pet supply stores, printing shops, mail and delivery stores and operations, gas stations, laundromats, electronics and telecommunications stores, office supply, industrial and agricultural/seafood equipment and supply stores, hardware stores, funeral homes, auto repair and supply, banks and credit unions, firearms stores, healthcare and public safety professional uniform stores, and other stores and businesses identified as critical by the Department of Business Regulation. Restaurants will be permitted to operate only for pickup, drive-through, and delivery in accordance with previous executive orders.
4. This executive order shall remain in effect until May 11, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager
Date: April 14, 2020

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-06 (AMENDED)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is the most effective and important tool available to combat the spread of the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, the following emergency measures are enacted as of Tuesday, April 7, 2020:

1. All South Kingstown residents are required to stay home unless traveling to work, traveling for medical treatment or obtaining necessities (food, medicine, gas, etc.). South Kingstown residents may still go outside to exercise and get fresh air, however, they must practice social distancing while outside and avoid touching surfaces frequently touched by others.
2. All gatherings of more than five (5) people in any public or private space such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, library, theater, place of worship, parade, fair, festival, park or beach, are prohibited.
3. Persons congregating in groups of more than five (5) will be subject to a fine or arrest for willful disobedience of this order.
4. Parking in the beach areas, as defined herein, is hereby restricted during the state of emergency. Violators will be towed.
5. "Beach areas," as used in this executive order, includes the following locations/roadways:
 - a. Succotash Road;
 - b. Jerusalem;
 - c. the State Pier;
 - d. Matunuck Beach Road;
 - e. Ocean Avenue;
 - f. Card's Pond Road;
 - g. Moonstone Beach Road;
 - h. Green Hill Beach Road;
 - i. Ocean Drive;
 - j. Charlestown Beach Road East;
 - k. the South Kingstown Town Beach; and
 - l. All roadways adjacent to the enumerated roadways/places listed herein.

6. For private residences or businesses that have not been closed pursuant to Governor Raimondo's executive orders, parking in the above-listed beach areas will not be prohibited if sufficient off-street parking is not available for occupants or customers thereof.
7. This executive order shall remain in effect until May 11, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Zarnetske", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Date: April 14, 2020

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07 (AMENDED)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, disruption of various supply chains has resulted in a shortage of paper bags for use in retail sales at grocery stores and other essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, there is reasonable concern about whether reusable plastic bags might serve as a vector for the SARS-COV-2 virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of Chapter 9 of the South Kingstown Town Code, Article VII Plastic Reduction Ordinance, prohibiting retailers from providing their customers with single-use plastic bags, would cause undue hardship in light of the shortage of paper bags; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the Plastic Reduction Ordinance might contribute to the use of reusable plastic bags that could carry the virus.

NOW THEREFORE the following emergency measures are hereby enacted:

(1) The South Kingstown Police are directed to cease and desist from enforcing all provisions of Chapter 9, Article VII Plastic Reduction Ordinance of the South Kingstown Town Code until May 11, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

(2) No penalty shall be levied on any business under Chapter 9, Article VII, Section 9-185 for any violation of the ordinance that occurred while the Town is under a state of emergency as declared by the South Kingstown Town Council.

Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk

Date: April 14, 2020