



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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

MAY 12, 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 May 11th, 2020, the Town Council voted to further extend the date of the local Declaration of Emergency from May 11th, 2020 to June 8th, 2020.** The full Renewed Declaration of Emergency Ordinance is attached to this Press Release for ease in reference.

In addition, **the Town Manager has issued Executive Order 2020-09 and authorized amendments three existing Executive Orders, all effective immediately and with timeframes through June 8th, 2020** in order to align the timeframes with the Town's renewed Declaration of Emergency. Each of the full Executive Orders are attached to this Press Release for ease in reference.

- **Executive Order 2020-02 providing directives and guidance to Restaurants** initially authorized March 21st, and as amended April 14th, has been further amended and is now extended through June 8th, 2020. **Amendments are reflective of Restaurants being authorized to temporarily expand service areas, effective May 18th, 2020**, per the restrictions and requirements issued by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, as well as providing related local conditions and requirements of the temporary permission to expand.
- **Executive Order 2020-04 providing directives and guidance to Retailers and Grocers** initially authorized March 26th, and as amended April 14th, is now extended through June 8th, 2020.
- **Executive Order 2020-07 suspending the 'Plastic Bag Ban'** initially authorized April 8th, and as amended April 14th, is now extended through June 8th, 2020.
- **Executive Order 2020-09 issued May 12th, 2020**
 - **Extends the timeframe for gathering limitations, currently at not more than five people**, to June 8th, 2020 and aligns the gathering limitation restrictions with those issued by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.
 - **Extends resident, non-resident, and seasonal resident travel, travel restrictions, and self-quarantine requirements** to June 8th, 2020 and aligns these restrictions and requirements with those issued by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.
 - **Updates directives to Short-Term Lodging owners and operators** and extends restrictions to June 8th, 2020.

Guidance for Members of the Public: During this pandemic, all residents are strongly advised to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing. While the Governor and the Town have lifted the Stay at Home order, residents are encouraged to stay close to home, and should remain home if you are sick (with any symptoms). The Governor

has ordered that cloth face coverings which cover the mouth and nose are to be worn when at work and when in public (indoor and outdoor), however be advised the wearing of cloth face masks does not eliminate or reduce the need to abide by social distancing requirements. 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. 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.

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**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. On April 10, 2020 Governor Raimondo extended the state of emergency as set forth in Executive Order 20-23, and on April 13, 2020 the Town Council voted to extend the date of the local emergency declaration.

Since the Council's declaration of emergency, Governor Raimondo has issued 28 further supplemental emergency declarations (as of May 7, 2020) relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and circumstances have continued to be dire both locally, statewide, and nationwide. On May 7, 2020, Governor Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-31 further extending the state of emergency to June 5, 2020. 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 emergency declaration from May 11, 2020 to June 8, 2020. The substance of the Council's 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 June 8, 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 June 5, 2020, this Ordinance shall expire on that date.

Adopted May 11, 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
Tel (401) 789-9331 x1201 ▪ Fax (401) 789-5280
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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-02 (SECOND AMENDMENT)

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the State of Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-03 declaring a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19; and a local state of emergency was declared on March 15, 2020, superseded by a subsequent emergency declaration dated April 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the emergency powers granted by the Rhode Island General Laws, and any other applicable provisions of state or local law, the Town Manager can issue additional directives, orders, and recommendations as circumstances require; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has adversely affected the restaurant industry; and

WHEREAS, Governor Raimondo has announced that as of May 18, restaurants may resume limited outdoor dining service, with indoor dine-in service expected to resume at a later phase of the economic reopening; and

WHEREAS, the Town of South Kingstown needs to take additional measures to support local restaurants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager of the Town of South Kingstown, by virtue of the authority vested in said office pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws, including but not limited to Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws, and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Town Council, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. Restaurants located in the Town of South Kingstown are authorized to temporarily expand their service areas, subject to the following conditions:
 - Expansion must be pursuant to and in accordance with any executive orders issued by Governor Gina Raimondo, directives of the Rhode Island Dept. of Health, Dept. of Business Regulation, or any other state agency, including without limitation all of the rules set forth in the document entitled 'Phase I Guidelines for Restaurants,' available at www.reopeningri.com
 - Expansion shall be strictly temporary and shall be permitted only so long as any executive orders, directives, and/or guidelines related to COVID-19 and social distancing are in effect. The Town reserves the right to take enforcement action with respect to licensing and/or zoning against any establishment that fails to restore the conditions of the premises to what was permitted before social distancing measures were required.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-02 (SECOND AMENDMENT)
MAY 12, 2020

- Expansion must be administratively approved by the Town Manager, Building Official, and Town Engineer. Restaurants wishing to expand must apply for approval via the Town's online permitting system available at <https://southkingstownri.viewpointcloud.com/>
 - All applicable life safety codes must be satisfied.
 - Expansion shall not result in an increase in capacity beyond what is currently permitted.
 - For restaurants wishing to temporarily convert a portion of off-street parking areas into service areas, a parking plan shall be required.
 - Where expansion into an adjacent area not owned by the restaurant is proposed, the applicant shall provide written authorization from the landowner.
 - Before temporary expansion into public property or a public right of way is authorized, the applicant shall provide proof of liability insurance from a company licensed to do business in the state and in a form satisfactory to the town solicitor, of no less than \$1,000,000 protecting the town for all claims and causes of action for personal injury or property damage resulting from such temporary expansion.
 - Fees for building permits, etc. set by the Town shall not be required.
 - The applicant shall agree in writing that temporary authorization to expand shall not confer any vested rights to continue such expanded use after social distancing measures are no longer in effect.
2. The following provisions of the Town Code of Ordinances are hereby suspended/modified only in connection with a duly-authorized temporary expansion of a restaurant service area:
 - Sec. 12-11 shall not prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or the possession of open containers on a public way or street, beach, public picnic ground, park, amusement area or any other public place or building.
 - Sec. 907(c) of the Zoning Ordinance, requiring a special use permit for uses existing/permitted by special use permit.
 3. Additionally, the section of the Town Council's Liquor License Rules and Regulations entitled 'Expansion of Liquor Services' is hereby suspended, only in connection with a duly-authorized temporary expansion of a restaurant service area and subject to the case by case approval of the Town Manager.
 4. An applicant denied permission to temporarily expand service area may appeal such decision to the Town Council.

Further, the South Kingstown Police Department is authorized to enforce these regulations in accordance with state directives and the Emergency Management statute.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-02 (SECOND AMENDMENT)
MAY 12, 2020

This executive order 2020-02 (Second Amendment) shall remain in effect until the expiration of the State declaration of emergency. This executive order 2020-02 (Second Amendment) may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Issued May 12, 2020.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Zarnetske", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Flynn", written over a horizontal line.

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04 (EXTENDED)

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 June 8, 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: May 12, 2020



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07 (EXTENDED)

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 June 8, 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:

Date: May 12, 2020

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-09

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 and extended May 11, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 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. Gathering limitations must be pursuant to and in accordance with any executive orders issued by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island (“the Governor”), including but not limited to Paragraph 8 of Executive Order 20-32, currently limiting gatherings to 5 people.
2. Resident, Non-Resident, and Seasonal Resident travel, travel restrictions, and self-quarantine requirements must be pursuant to and in accordance with any executive orders issued by the Governor, including but not limited to Paragraphs 1 through 7 of Executive Order 20-32.
3. All Short-Term Lodging owners and operators must have an on-site property manager and shall inform their guests when making reservations, and upon arrival of the aforementioned travel restrictions and self-quarantine requirements, and that if self-quarantine requirements are applicable, guests must remain on the Short-Term Lodging property for the duration of their stay, or for 14 days, whichever timeframe is shorter. All owners and operators of Short-Term Lodging facilities must arrange delivery service for their self-quarantined 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, and owners and operations taking reservations through online rental platforms such as Airbnb.
4. 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.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-09
MAY 12, 2020

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

To the extent that any provision in this order is inconsistent with any executive order issued by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island for dealing with COVID-19, the executive order of the Governor shall supersede this order and govern in its stead.

This executive order 2020-09 shall remain in effect until June 8, 2020 or the expiration of the State declaration of emergency, whichever is sooner. This executive order 2020-09 may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Issued May 12, 2020.

By



Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:



Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk