



# TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

## PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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

**JUNE 10, 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 extending 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Town Council voted on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to authorize a Declaration of Emergency in the Town of South Kingstown. **The Governor has extended the State of Emergency, and on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Town Council voted to further extend the end date of the local Declaration of Emergency from June 8<sup>th</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 three existing Executive Orders with timeframes through July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** 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 21<sup>st</sup>, and as previously amended, has been further amended and is now extended through July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- **Executive Order 2020-07 suspending the 'Plastic Bag Ban'** initially authorized April 8<sup>th</sup>, and as previously amended, has been further extended for another 30 days through July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. **It is noted that this Executive Order will not be further extended, and the 'Plastic Bag Ban' will resume on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
- **Executive Order 2020-09 issued May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020** has been extended through July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - **Extends the timeframe for gathering limitations** to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as defined by the gathering limitation restrictions issued by the Governor, currently at not more than 15 people.
  - **Extends travel restrictions and self-quarantine requirements** to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as defined by the travel restrictions and self-quarantine requirements issued by the Governor, currently limited to travel from locations that have stay-at-home or similar restriction due to COVID-19.
  - **Extends directives to Short-Term Lodging owners and operators** to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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 the wearing of cloth face masks does not eliminate or reduce the need to abide by social distancing requirements. Residents should remain home if you are sick (with any symptoms). Gatherings have been limited to not more than 15 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 (or back to) Rhode Island from locations with a stay-at-home order (or similar) 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](http://www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19). For additional updates from the Town, as well as information and resources related to COVID-19, we encourage residents to visit [www.southkingstownri.com](http://www.southkingstownri.com). Updates and information will also be shared via the Town's official Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/southkingstownri](http://www.facebook.com/southkingstownri). Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**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. Governor Raimondo extended the state of emergency as set forth in Executive Order 20-23 on April 10, 2020, and it was further extended on May 7, 2020. The Town Council voted to extend the date of the local emergency declaration on April 13, 2020, and it was further extended on May 11, 2020.

Since the Council's declaration of emergency, Governor Raimondo has issued 39 further supplemental emergency declarations (as of June 4, 2020) relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and circumstances have continued to be dire both locally, statewide, and nationwide. On June 4, 2020, Governor Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-42 further extending the state of emergency to July 4, 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 June 8, 2020 to July 13, 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 July 13, 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 July 4, 2020, this Ordinance shall expire on that date.

Adopted June 8, 2020.

By Order of the Town Council.

Attest:



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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 (THIRD 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, and extended through July 13 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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, 2020 restaurants may resume limited outdoor dining service, and as of June 1, 2020 restaurants may resume limited indoor dining service; 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, in accordance with Sec. 9-21 and Sec. 12-11 of the Town Code, and Sec. 907(c) of the Zoning Ordinance, as amended by the Town Council on June 8, 2020, 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' and 'Phase II Guidelines for Restaurants' available at [www.reopeningri.com](http://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.
  - 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.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-02 (THIRD AMENDMENT)  
JUNE 9, 2020

- 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 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.
  3. 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.

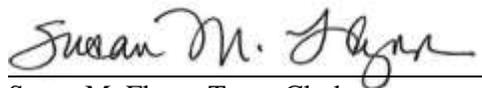
This executive order 2020-02 shall remain in effect until October 31, 2020. This executive order 2020-02 may be further extended if necessary by a subsequent executive order.

Issued June 9, 2020.



Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:



Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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Robert C. Zarnetske  
Town Manager

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07 (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, and extended through July 13 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 July 8, 2020.
- (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 between the dates of March 15, 2020 and July 8, 2020.

Issued June 9, 2020.

Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk



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**Robert C. Zarnetske**  
Town Manager

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-09 (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, and extended through July 13, 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 current or future executive order(s) issued by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island (“the Governor”). At the time of this Executive Order issuance, such limitation is 15 people, per Paragraph 6 of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-40.
2. Resident, Non-Resident, and Seasonal Resident travel, travel restrictions and self-quarantine requirements must be pursuant to and in accordance with any current or future executive order(s) issued by the Governor. At the time of this Executive Order issuance, such restrictions and requirements are per Paragraphs 1 through 5 of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-40.
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.

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 2020-09 (AMENDED)  
JUNE 9, 2020

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 July 13, 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.

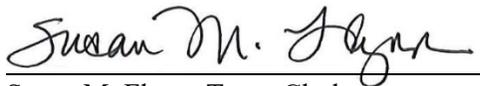
Issued June 9, 2020.



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Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:



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Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk