



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

HOCKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Hocking County Health Commissioner's Statement of Clarification

I, Dr. Douglas S. Fisher, Hocking County Health Commissioner, pursuant to the authority granted to me in Ohio Revised Code section 3707 and Section 17 of the Director's Amended Stay At Home Order, issued April 2, 2020, provide the following statement to clarify the Director's Amended Stay At Home Order as it applies to transient rentals including but not limited to private residences utilized as a transient rental, cabins, lodges, treehouses, container homes, bed and breakfast, yurts, recreational vehicles, etc.

The Director's Amended Stay At Home Order, issued April 2, 2020, specifies that *"Campgrounds shall be closed, except that persons residing in recreational vehicles ("RVs") at campgrounds who genuinely have no other viable place of residence may remain in the campground. This campground closure also excludes cabins, mobile homes, or other fixed structure, meant for a single family in situations where no other viable place of residence exists."*

The position of the Hocking County Health Department is that transient rentals are not an Essential Business or Operation as defined in the Director's Order, unless the persons residing in the transient rental genuinely have no other viable place of residence. In order to comply with the Director's Order, transient rental owners shall keep their businesses closed and not accept transient or leisure guests for the duration of the Order.

All persons are ordered to *"continue to stay at home or their place of residence unless they are engaged in Essential Activities, Essential Government Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses and Operations as set forth in this Order."* Leisure travel does not meet the definition of essential travel and shall not be encouraged.

R.C. 3701.352 states; *"No person shall violate any rule the director of health or department of health adopts or any order the director or department of health issues under this chapter to prevent a threat to the public caused by a pandemic, epidemic, or bioterrorism event."* R.C. 3701.99 (C)...states that a violation is a second-degree misdemeanor, which can include a fine of not more than \$750 or not more than 90 days in jail, or both.

This statement is to clarify the Director's Amended Stay At Home Order, issued April 2, 2020, to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, and to ensure the healthcare system in Hocking County does not become overburdened during the COVID 19 Pandemic. This statement is consistent with the intent and made to further effectuate the intent of the Director's Order.

I have attached a full copy of the Director's Amended Stay At Home Order, issued April 2, 2020, for further information.

Respectfully,

Douglas S. Fisher
Hocking County Health Commissioner

4/3/2020