



Health Officer Memorandum

DATE: May 14, 2020

TO: Garrett County Rental Agencies
Board of Garrett County Commissioners
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce
TVRU owners who rent directly

FROM: Robert Stephens, MS Health Officer

RE: Rescinding the March 26, 2020 Health Officer Order

I am hereby rescinding the March 26, 2020 Garrett County Health Officer Order that prohibited the rental of transient vacation rental units in conjunction with Governor Larry Hogan's March 23, 2020 Executive Order that prohibited non-essential travel in Maryland as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the event of a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic such as a significant outbreak, statewide or local steps could be taken to address the spread of the disease.

I want to thank you for your cooperation and patience during this extraordinary time.

While the fight against this virus is a challenge, the steps we have taken together have helped stop the spread of disease in our community.

Attachment



Garrett County, a healthier place to live, work, and play!

garretthealth.org

Toll Free Maryland Department of Health 1-877-463-3464

TDD for Disabled Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Equal Opportunity Employer

As the result of Governor Hogan’s announcement to implement Stage One of the Roadmap to Recovery Plan, the Garrett County Health Department hereby rescinds Health Office Orders dated March 26, 2020 prohibiting the rental of TVRU’s and vacation rental properties in Garrett County with the following conditions:

- **Rental Restrictions**
 - Comply with the Governor’s regulations that restrict the size of social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational and sporting gatherings (currently limited to 10 non-family members).

- **Cleaning Vacation Rentals**
 - Implement enhanced cleaning requirements
 - Use of EPA or CDC approved disinfectant in high touch, high traffic areas throughout the home.
 - Adherence to the Vacation Rental Housekeeping Professional Standard of Housekeeping during the COVID-19 Pandemic along with guidelines from the Vacation Rental Management Association (VRMA). <https://www.vrma.org/page/vrhp/vrma-cleaning-guidelines-for-covid-19>

- **Check in and Check out**
 - Check in and check out time to be adjusted for those on a same day turn around so there is more time between departure and arrival to properly clean a property with the enhanced cleaning procedures.
 - Remote check-in if possible.

- **Employees and contractors**
 - Assure that employees and/or contractors are trained for enhanced cleaning protocols.
 - Equip and require staff to use the proper PPE.
 - Advise employees if they are sick to stay home.
 - Wash hands frequently.

- **Guests**
 - Provide messaging to guests by email prior to their arrival of Garrett County and Maryland’s requirements and recommendations to include:
 - Instructions for guests to bring grocery items, paper and cleaning products with them. Emphasizing that there may be local shortages of certain products due to the current pandemic.
 - While visiting Garrett County please practice social distancing.
 - A face mask is required in all retail stores to prevent the spread.
 - Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer when visiting retail establishments.
 - If you feel ill with COVID-19 symptoms please self-isolate.
 - If you have questions regarding COVID-19 while visiting DCL you can call the Garrett County COVID-19 Hotline at 301-334-7698.
 - Please notify the property manager if you test positive for COVID-19 or develop signs and symptoms of the virus before checking out so that we can notify our housekeeping staff.
 - For the purpose of vacation rentals, family members, including extended family, are not considered “large groups” and are not prohibited. Non-related groups larger than 10 people are not permitted in rental properties.