



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 2, 2020
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VACATION RENTALS MUST COMPLY WITH HEALTH ORDER

In response to questions regarding vacation rentals, the County of Santa Cruz is providing the following guidance under State and local health orders to shelter-in-place in order to reduce the impacts of COVID-19 in the community.

Vacation rentals, including those rented through Airbnb, VRBO or other platforms, are not allowed to operate as such under the revised Order issued by Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel on March 31, 2020, which is in effect through May 3 unless revised or extended.

Under the Order, only essential businesses are allowed to operate, and travel is prohibited unless for essential services or purposes as defined in the Order. These locations may not be used for non-essential/leisure travel. Vacation rentals are NOT an essential business as defined in the order, but may be allowed to continue operations under certain circumstances related to essential services, such as:

- Providing housing for traveling emergency and public safety personnel.
- Providing housing for traveling medical personnel.
- Providing housing for other essential workers.
- Providing housing for families attending to the critical medical needs of local relatives.

Vacation rentals should not be used by their owners to shelter in place if they have to leave another county to come here. All vacation bookings not currently in effect should be cancelled through May 3, 2020. Current vacation rental occupants are encouraged to return home unless they have no other place to go or are unable to safely travel.

Under California Health and Safety Code § 120295, failing to comply with a Health Officer's order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

For local information on COVID-19, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus, call 211 or text "COVID19" to 211211. Residents may also call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., seven days a week.