



Town of Wrightsville Beach

321 Causeway Drive – P. O. Box 626
Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina 28480
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PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

DATE: April 28, 2020

**CONTACT: Tim Owens, Town Manager
(910) 239 - 1770**

Wrightsville Beach Continues Limited Beach Access for Non-Stationary Exercise Activities, the Closure of All Parking for Beach Access, and the Prohibition of Short Term Rentals Until May 8, 2020 at 5:00 pm

The Town of Wrightsville Beach will continue limited beach access for non-stationary exercise, the closure of all parking for beach access, and the prohibition of all short term rentals until May 8, 2020 at 5pm, or until rescinded, to include all of the following restrictions:

- **With the exception of East Salisbury Street, all access points and beaches will be open for individual, non-stationary exercise activities to include only walking, jogging, swimming, and surfing/water sports.**
- Sunbathing, sitting, fishing, games and all other activities will not be permitted on the beaches at this time.
- All beach equipment such as towels, blankets, chairs, tents, coolers, and umbrellas will not be allowed on the beaches at this time.
- Individuals participating in such exercise activities must follow strict social distancing measures.
- No exercise group shall have more than 10 people.
- Lifeguards will not be on duty.
- Dogs are not permitted on the beaches.
- Public restroom facilities will remain closed.
- All parks will remain closed, with the exception of walk-in tennis court use.

- **All Town owned parking lots will remain closed to the general public.**
- **All public on-street parking spaces are closed to the public for any use except where allowed as part of this State of Emergency Declaration. This includes all on-street parking spaces that are not obstructed by cones, barricades, or that have no parking bags on the meters.**
- Town of Wrightsville Beach residents, with a current parking hang tag or tax decal, will be permitted to utilize public on-street parking, only if they have no access to parking on their private property.
- Contractors, landscapers, and essential employees that wish to park in an on-street parking space must purchase a parking pass from the Wrightsville Beach Parking Office located at 321 Causeway Drive in Wrightsville Beach. Office hours will be from 8am to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. More information may be found at the Town's website (www.townofwrightsvillebeach.com) or by calling (910) 256-5453. The Parking Office will only be selling contractors passes and will not be performing any other in-person business, such as, the sale of resident parking passes or tax decals.
- There will be limited public parking available for business-use. This parking will be located adjacent to those essential businesses only that have no on-site parking and that are open for business. This parking must strictly be used to access those essential businesses only and not to access the beaches. Parking enforcement will be active in these locations.
- **Private parking lots may only be used in conjunction with parking for access to essential businesses that are open for business. In no event shall a private parking lot be used to park to access the beach.**
- **Discontinuance of All Short-term Rental Operations: The rental of hotel rooms, motel rooms, and short-term lodging is prohibited (except as allowed by a governmental request to assist with the emergency response to Coronavirus, or to provide lodging in support of the supply or distribution of Covid-19 Essential Businesses and Operations or in support of our communities' Covid-19 emergency response and practices utilized to fight the virus or its spread). Extended stay hotels or rental properties may continue to offer lodging for terms of no less than 28 days. These restrictions apply to vacation rentals, short-term rentals, bed and breakfast establishments, Air BNB, VRBO, hotels, motels, inns and similar businesses and establishments.**

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**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY – FIFTH AMENDMENT
Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina**

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Governor Cooper declared a State of Emergency to ensure that North Carolina was prepared and responding to the COVID-19 Virus; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National State of Emergency to address the COVID-19 Global Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 20, 2020, Chair of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners Julia Olson-Boseman declared a State of Emergency to address the COVID-19 Global Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 20, 2020, I, Mayor F. Darryl Mills declared a State of Emergency for the Town of Wrightsville Beach to address the COVID-19 Global Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 30, 2020, I, Mayor F. Darryl Mills amended the State of Emergency for the Town of Wrightsville Beach (First Amendment) to incorporate restrictions imposed by the State of North Carolina and New Hanover County to address the COVID-19 Global Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, April 3, 2020, I, Mayor F. Darryl Mills amended the State of Emergency for the Town of Wrightsville Beach (Second Amendment) to incorporate restrictions imposed by New Hanover County regarding closure of public and private boat ramps and marinas to address the COVID-19 Global Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, I, Mayor F. Darryl Mills amended the State of Emergency for the Town of Wrightsville Beach (Third Amendment) to incorporate the lessening of restrictions imposed by State of Emergency for New Hanover County such as opening marinas, boat ramps, and clarifying that the purchase of clothing is an essential item; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2020, I, Mayor F. Darryl Mills amended the State of Emergency for the Town of Wrightsville Beach (Fourth Amendment) that opened the beaches to individual, non-stationary exercise and restricted all on-street parking, private off-street parking and public parking lots; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described COVID-19 Pandemic, we have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or could cause, widespread or severe dangers for the safety of the public, and the Town of Wrightsville Beach is taking preemptive measures to reduce the impacts of the virus; and

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein are necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the Town of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes:

Section 1. The Town of Wrightsville Beach hereby extends the Town's State of Emergency to May 8, 2020 at 5 pm, subject to the following mandatory restrictions:

- **With the exception of East Salisbury Street, all access points and beaches will be open for individual, non-stationary exercise activities to include only walking, jogging, swimming, and surfing/water sports.**
- Sunbathing, sitting, fishing, games and all other activities will not be permitted on the beaches at this time
- All beach equipment such as towels, blankets, chairs, tents, coolers, and umbrellas will not be allowed on the beaches at this time.
- Individuals participating in such exercise activities must follow strict social distancing measures
- No exercise group shall have more than 10 people.
- Lifeguards will not be on duty.
- Dogs are not permitted on the beaches.
- Public restroom facilities will remain closed.
- All parks will remain closed, with the exception of walk-in tennis court use.

- **All Town owned parking lots will remain closed to the general public.**
- **All public on-street parking spaces are closed to the public for any use except where allowed as part of this State of Emergency Declaration. This includes all on-street parking spaces that are not obstructed by cones, barricades, or that have no parking bags on the meters**
- Town of Wrightsville Beach residents, with a current parking hang tag or tax decal, will be permitted to utilize public on-street parking, only if they have no access to parking on their private property.
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- **Private parking lots may only be used in conjunction with parking for access to essential businesses that are open for business. In no event shall a private parking lot be used to park to access the beach.**
- **Discontinuance of All Short-term Rental Operations: The rental of hotel rooms, motel rooms, and short-term lodging is prohibited. (except as allowed by a governmental request to assist with the emergency response to Coronavirus or to provide lodging in support of the supply or distribution of Covid-19 Essential Businesses and Operations or in support of our communities' Covid-19 emergency response and practices utilized to fight the virus or its spread). Extended stay hotels or rental properties may continue to offer lodging for terms of no less than 28 days. These restrictions apply to vacation rentals, short-term rentals, bed and breakfast establishments, Air BNB, VRBO, hotels, motels, inns and similar businesses and establishments.**

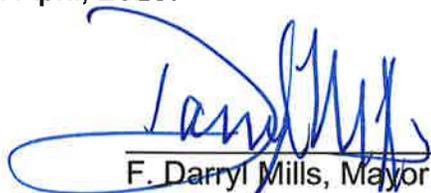
VIOLATORS OF THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO BEING CHARGED WITH A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR, A \$500 CIVIL FINE FOR EACH VIOLATION, AND THE TOWING OF NONCOMPLIANT VEHICLES.

VIOLATION OF THESE RESTRICTIONS MAY LEAD TO THE RE-CLOSING OF THE BEACH.

Section 1. This Fifth Amendment to the Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Town of Wrightsville Beach incorporates all Executive Orders signed by the Governor related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this State of Emergency shall be the Town's entire corporate jurisdiction.

DECLARED this the 28th day of April, 2020.



F. Darryl Mills, Mayor



Attest: Sylvia J. Holleman, Town Clerk